



International Association  
for Hydro-Environment  
Engineering and Research  
Hosted by  
Spain Water and IWHR, China



ISOS|2023

# Simposio Internacional sobre Sistemas de Emisarios 2023

International Symposium on Outfall Systems 2023

## RIACHUELO SYSTEM - OUTFALL LOT 3

ENG. ANDREA CODALLI



Lo bueno  
del agua  
llega.



Ministerio de  
Obras Públicas  
Argentina



# RIACHUELO OUTFALL

**TREATMENT**

**2,332,800**  
m<sup>3</sup> / day

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**BENEFICIARIES**

**4,300,000**  
inhabitants

---

**TERM**

**5** years

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**INVESTMENT**

**1200**  
million dollars

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**EMPLOYEES**

**1500**  
direct labour

Source: www.aysa.com



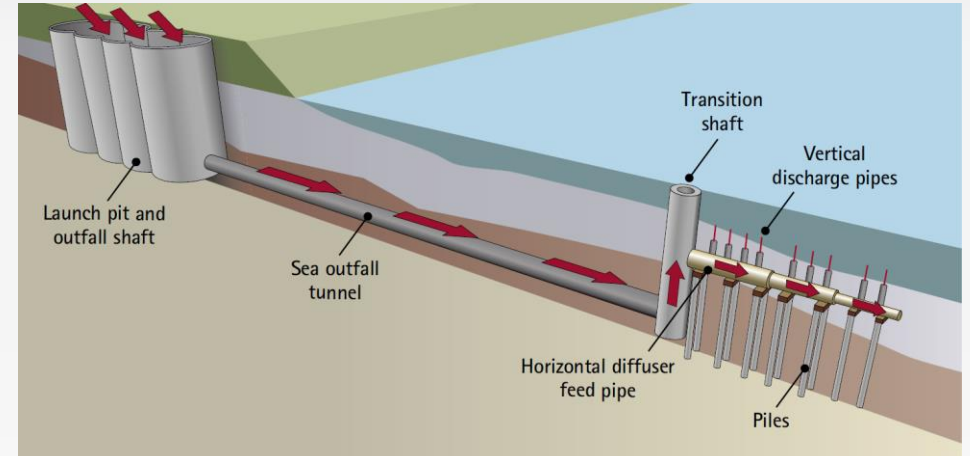
# LOCATION



# PROJECT – ORIGINAL VS VARIANT

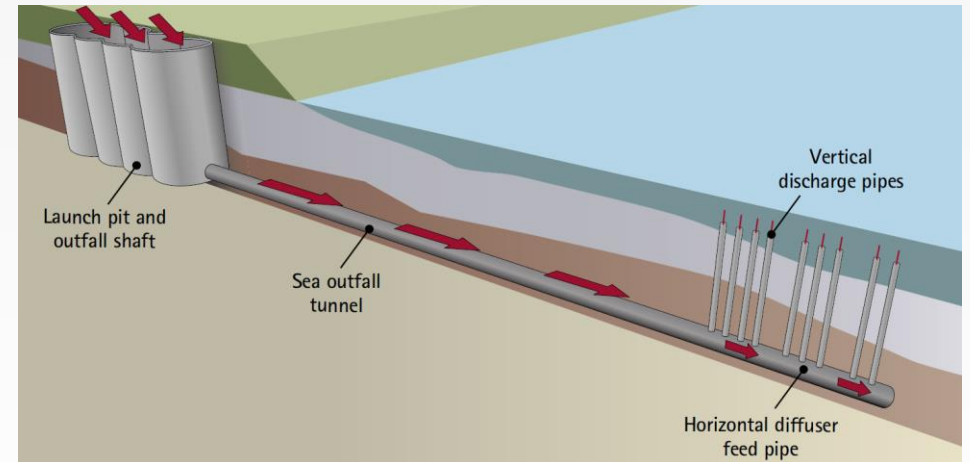
- ✓ Outfall Tunnel (10,5km)
- ✓ Offshore Transition Shaft
- ✓ Diffuser section:
  - Deep foundations (35m)
  - Pipes (3,8/2,8/1,7m)
  - Risers (≈5m each)

Sea Outfall  
Initial Solution



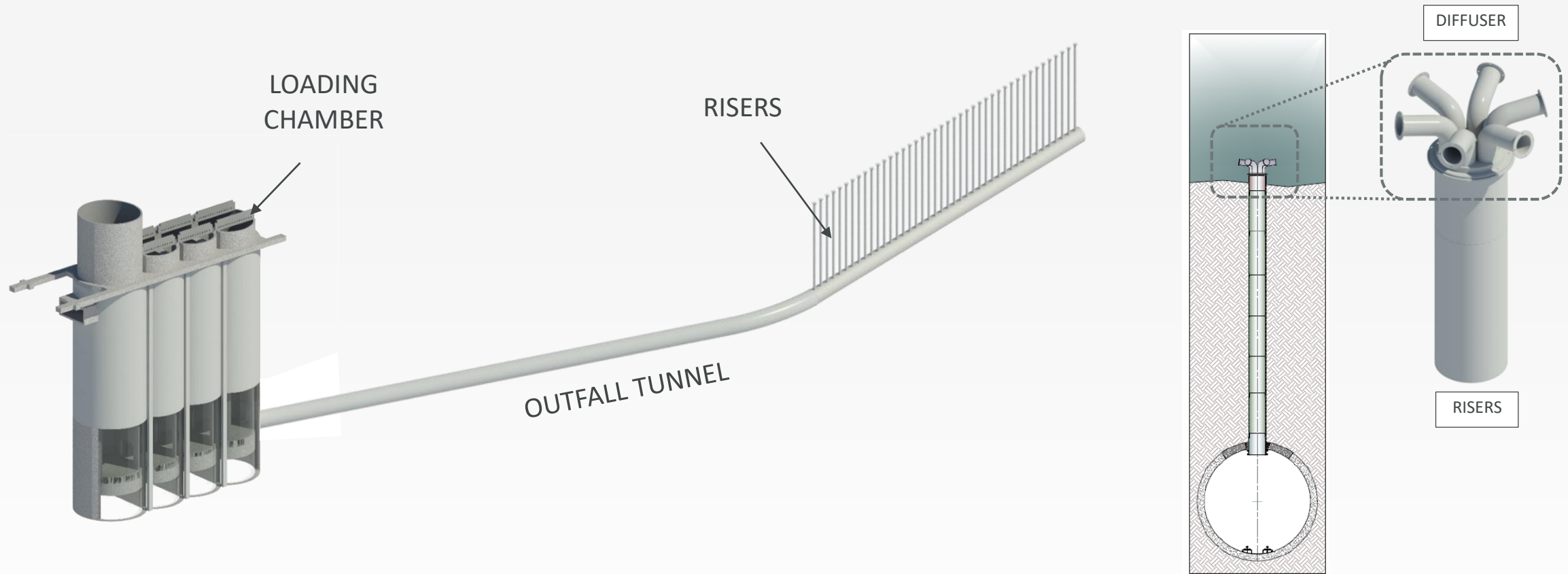
- ✓ Outfall Tunnel (10,5km)
- ✓ Diffuser section:
  - Diffuser Tunnel (1,5km)
  - Risers (≈35m each)

Sea Outfall  
Alternative Solution  
(Riser Concept)





# PROJECT – OVERALL CONCEPT



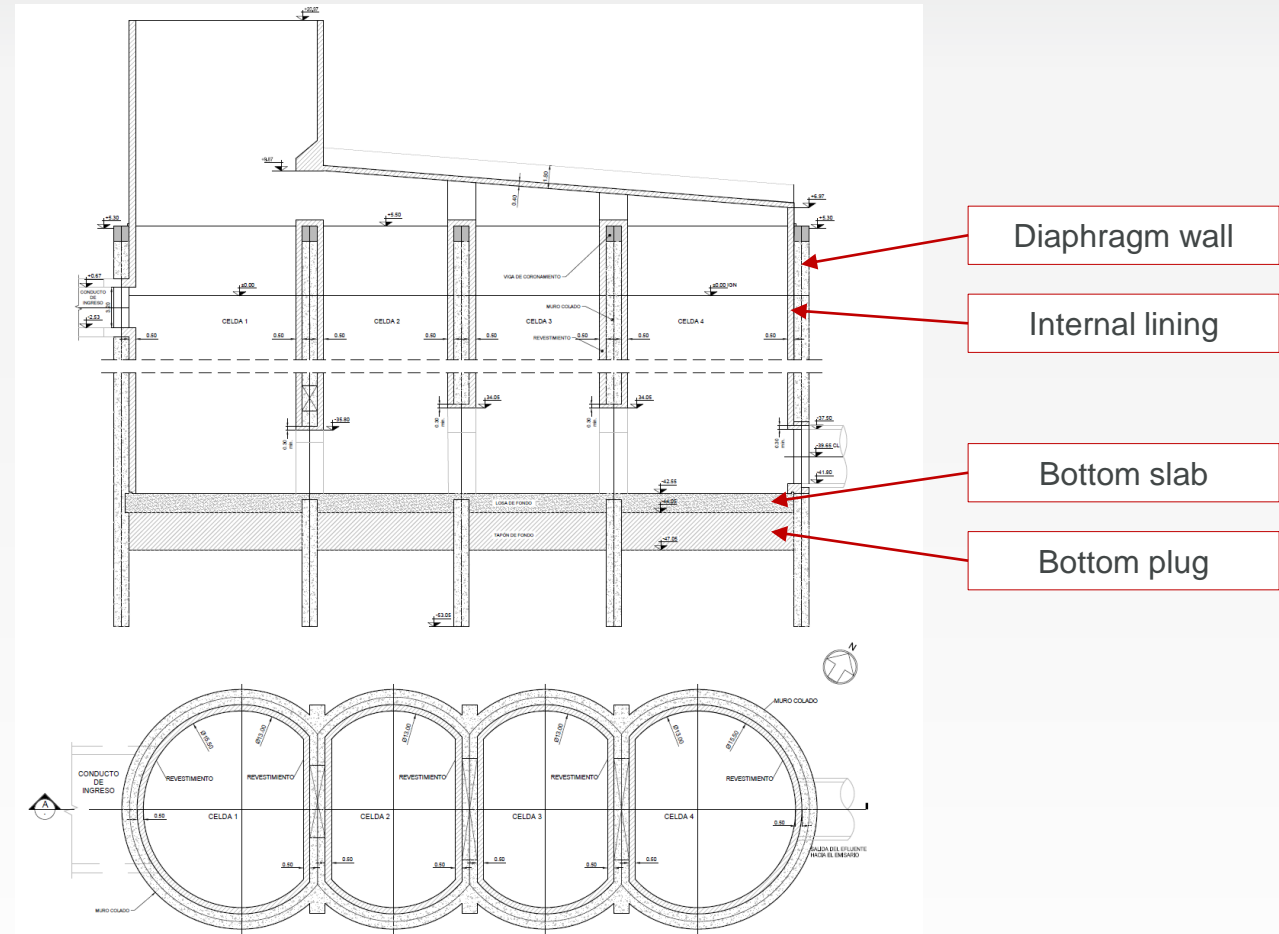
# LOADING CHAMBER – GENERAL DESIGN

## Design:

- Internal cell diameter: 15,50 m
- Diaphragm Wall thk: 1,20 m
- Bottom plug thk: 3,00 m
- Bottom slab thk: 1,50 m
- Internal lining thk: 0,50 m

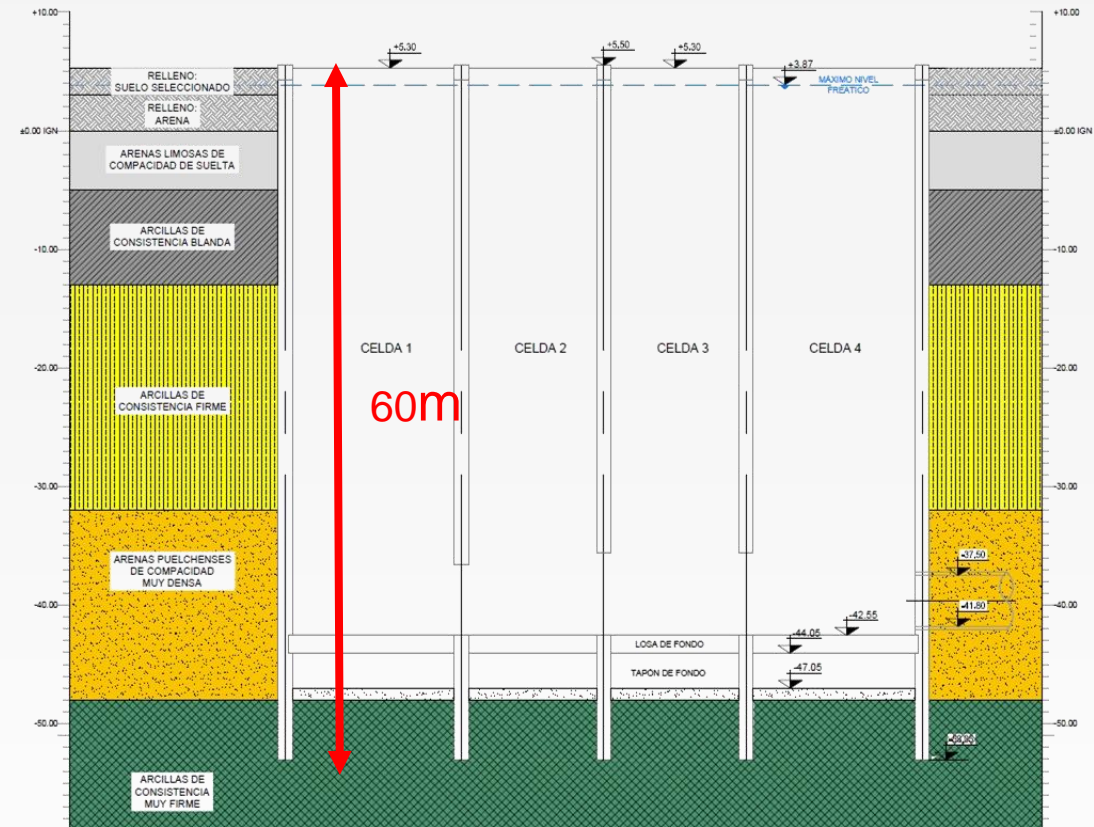
## Construction sequence:

1. Diaphragm walls construction
2. Excavation under wáter
3. Bottom plug
4. Unwatering of loading chamber
5. Bottom slab
6. Internal lining



# LOADING CHAMBER – DIAPHRAGM WALLS

- Diaphragm walls
- 60 m depth and 1,20 m thick
- Multiple panels (600 m<sup>3</sup>/panel)
- Total volume: 12'400 m<sup>3</sup>





# LOADING CHAMBER – EXCAVATION

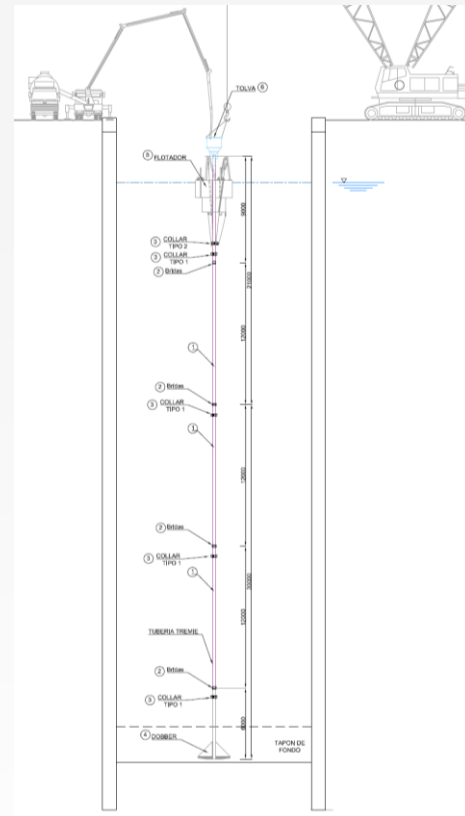
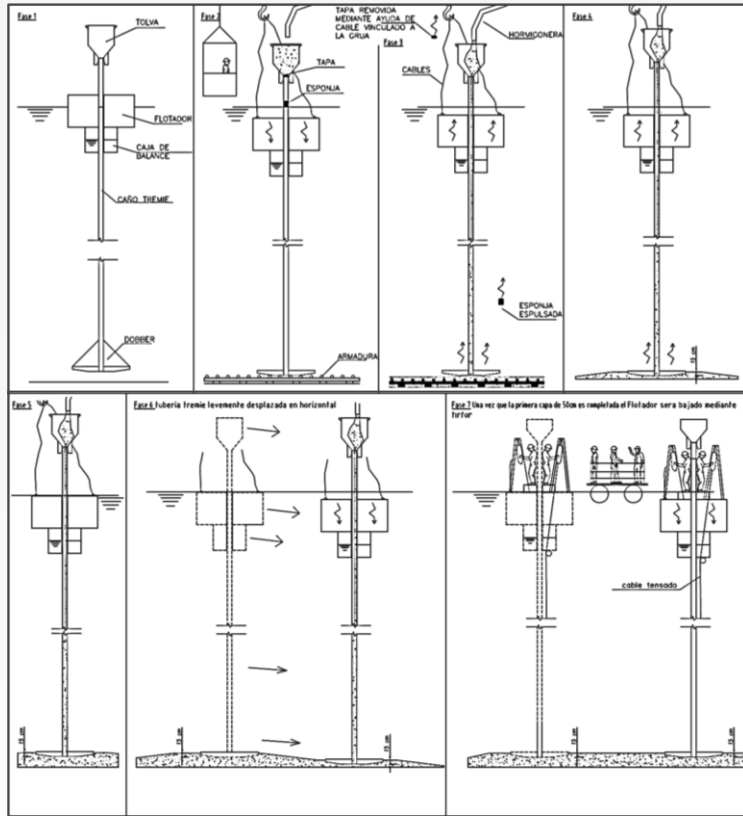
- Stepped excavation (backhoe / clamshell / Dragflow) with defined maximum difference between cells ground level according to the cast wall design
- Underwater inspection and cleaning with divers



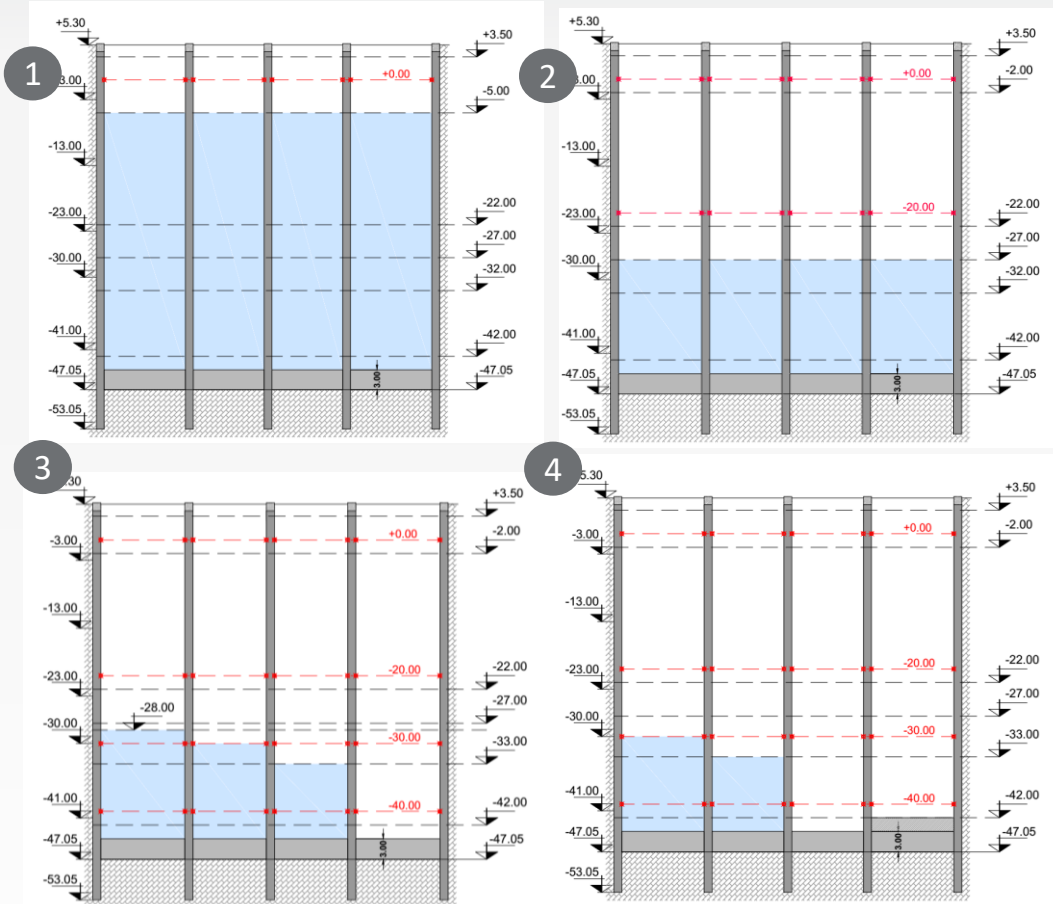


# LOADING CHAMBER – BOTTOM PLUG

- Concrete bottom plug pour with a Tremie – Dobber system – 3,00m thickness



# LOADING CHAMBER – UNWATERING OF THE LOADING CHAMBER



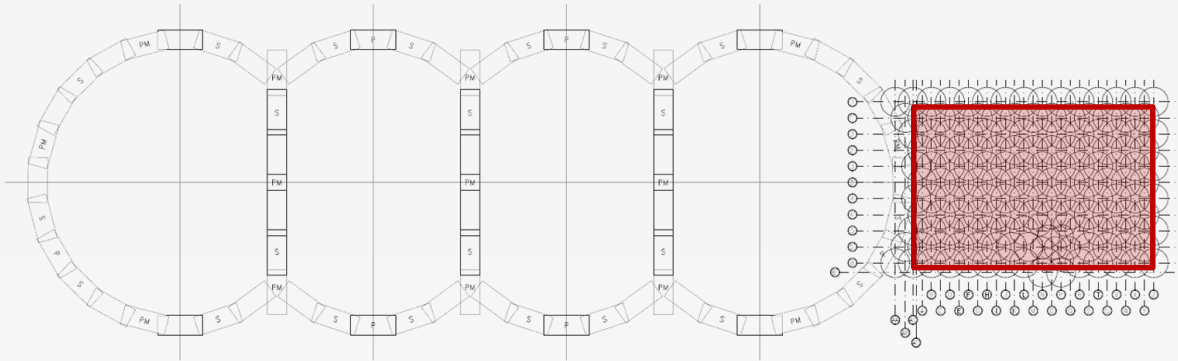
- Unwatering sequence
- Construction of bottom slab



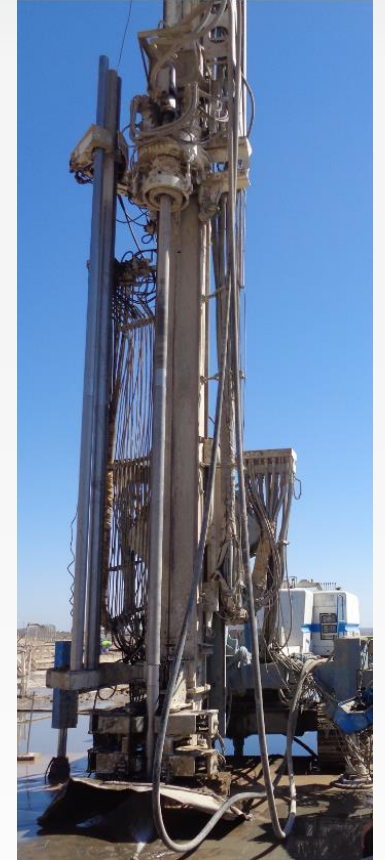
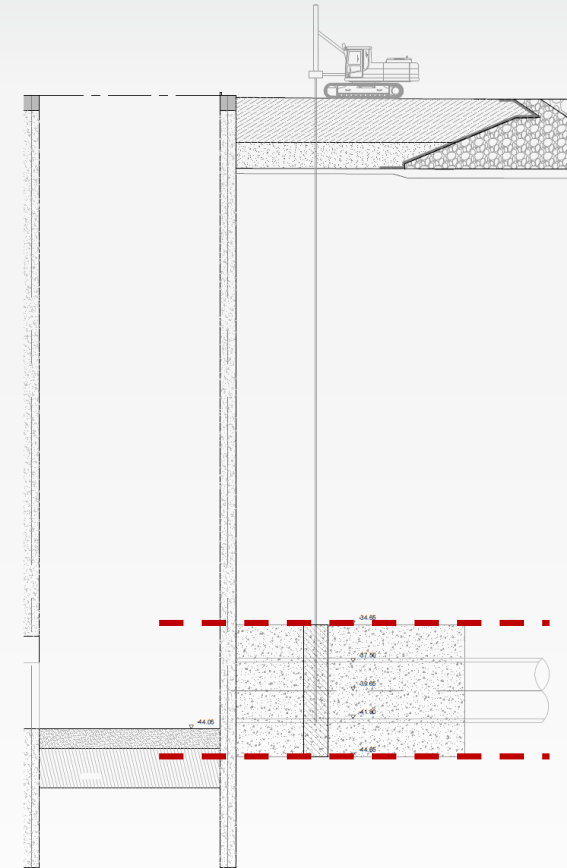


# LOADING CHAMBER – GROUND IMPROVEMENT

- Jet grouting columns outside the loading chamber  
158 columns – 1,80m (40-50 m depth)

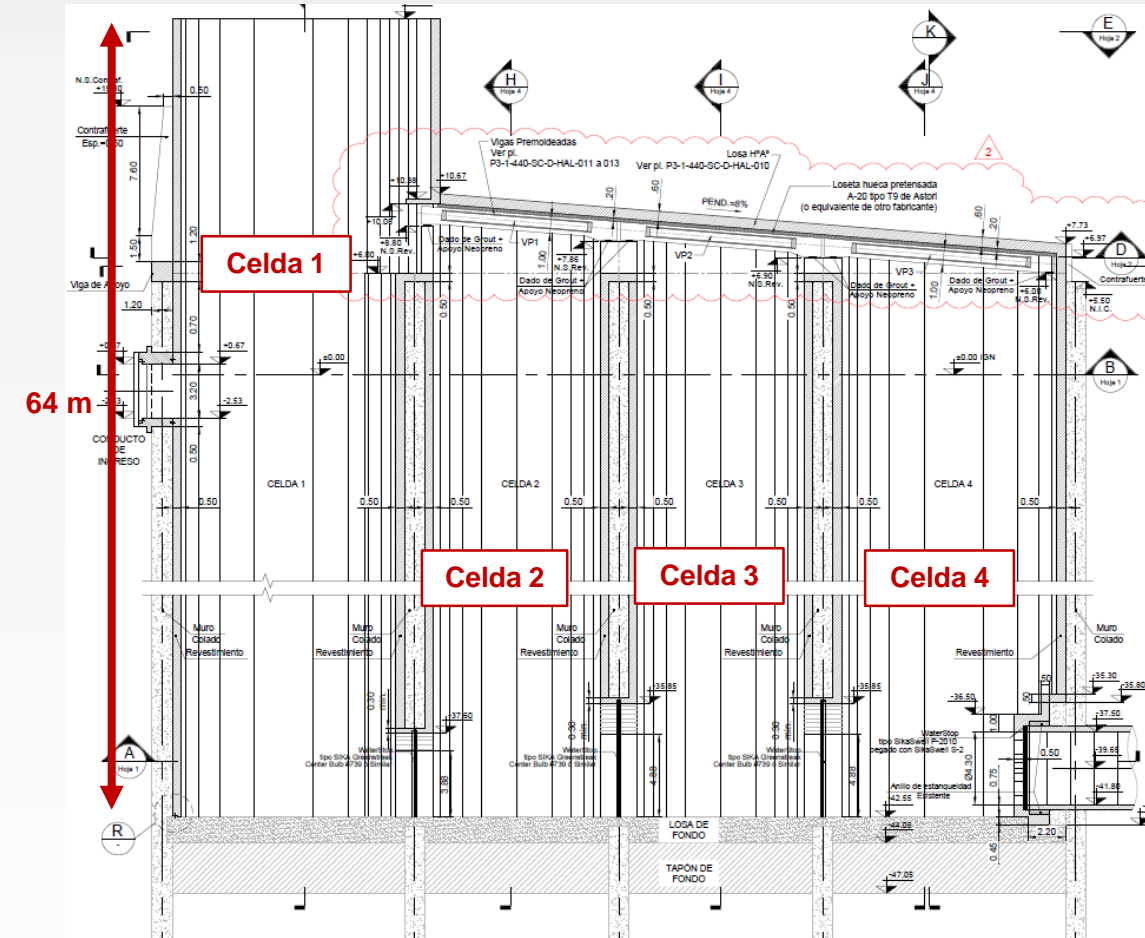


- Secondary injection from the shaft in n.3 different



# LOADING CHAMBER – FINAL INTERNAL LINING

- Thickness 0,50 m
- Sliding formwork





# LOADING CHAMBER



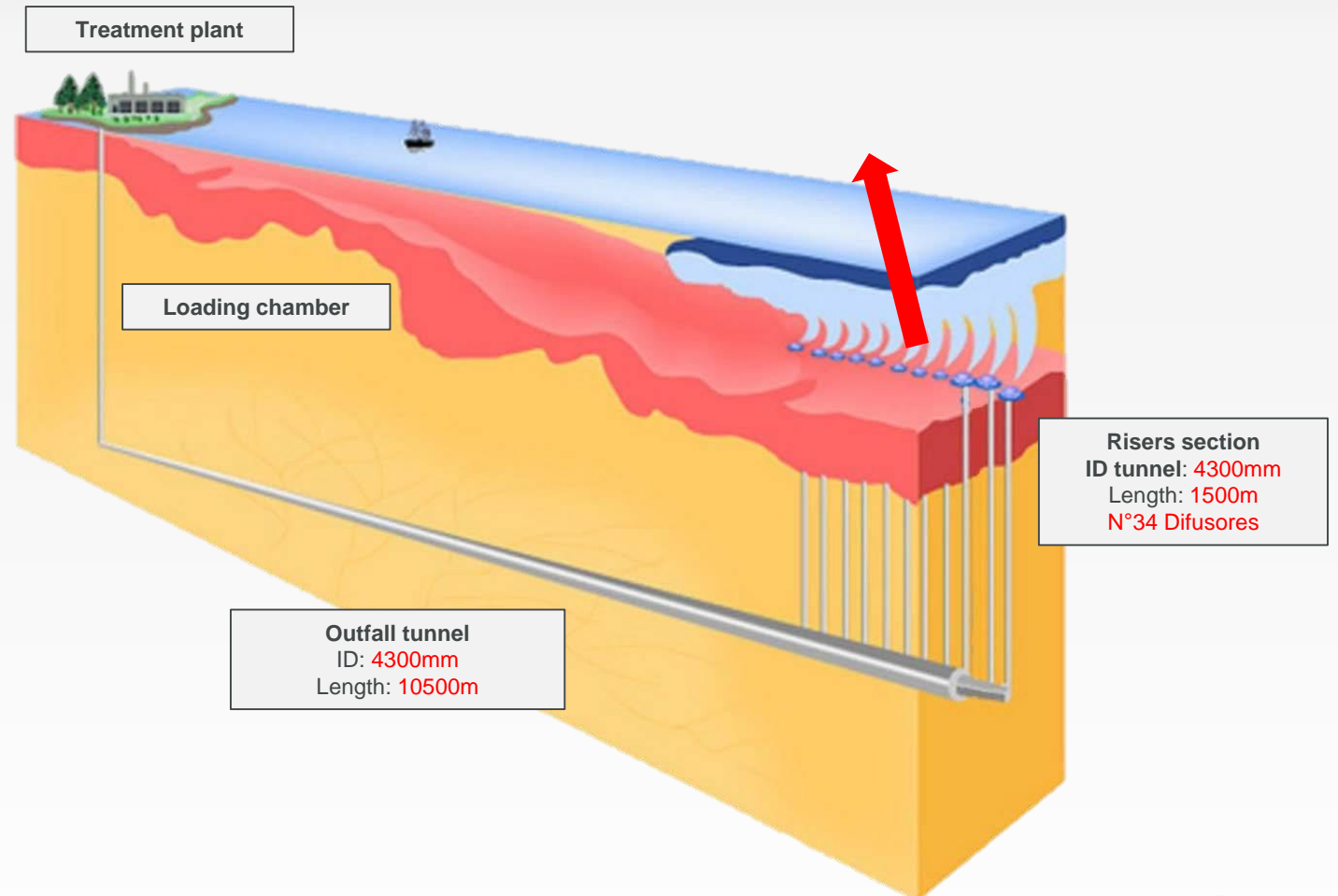
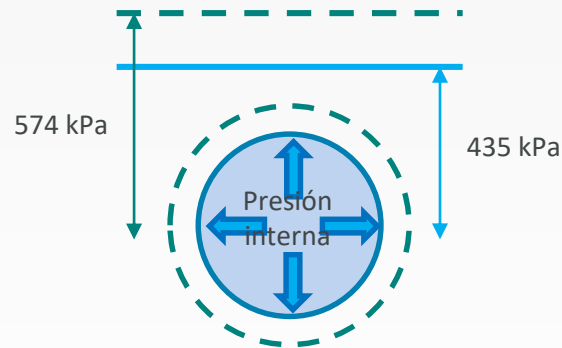


# LOADING CHAMBER



# OUTFALL TUNNEL – GENERAL DESIGN

- Design flow = 27 m<sup>3</sup>/s
- Roughness: 3 mm (ks)
- External pressure: 43.5 mca
- Internal pressure: 57.4 mca
- **Differential pressure ≈ 13.9 mca**





# OUTFALL TUNNEL – DESIGN

Estructural test during design stage:

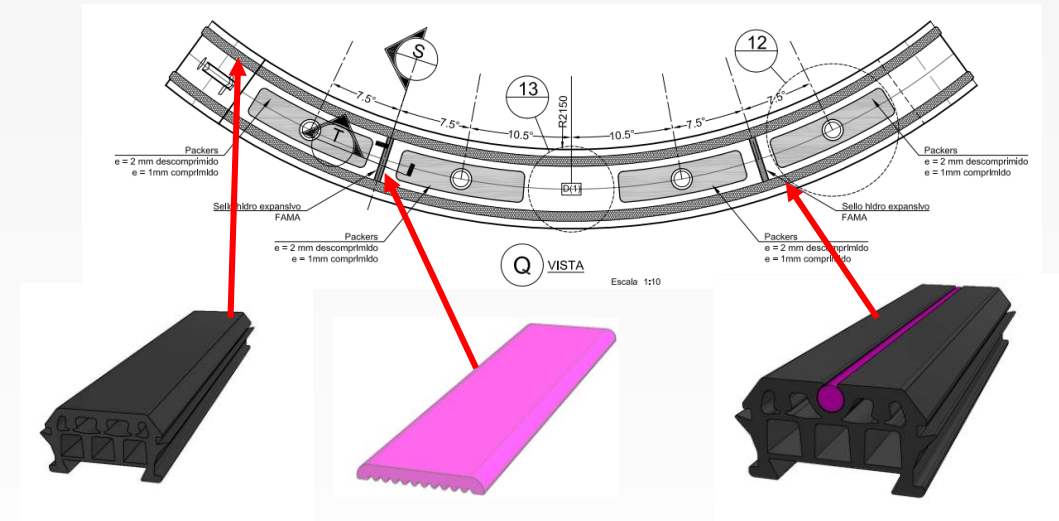
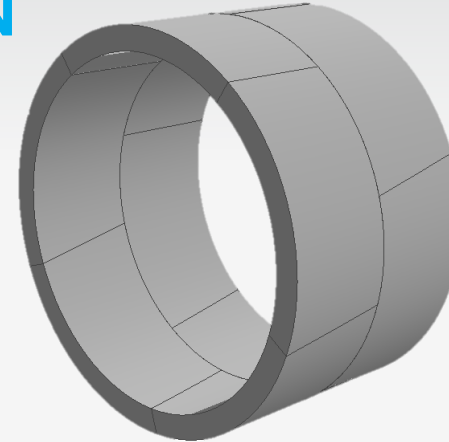
- Step 1 = 0,65bar: Exceptional load condition
- Step 2 = 1,00bar: Exceptional load condition x 1,6 (FS)



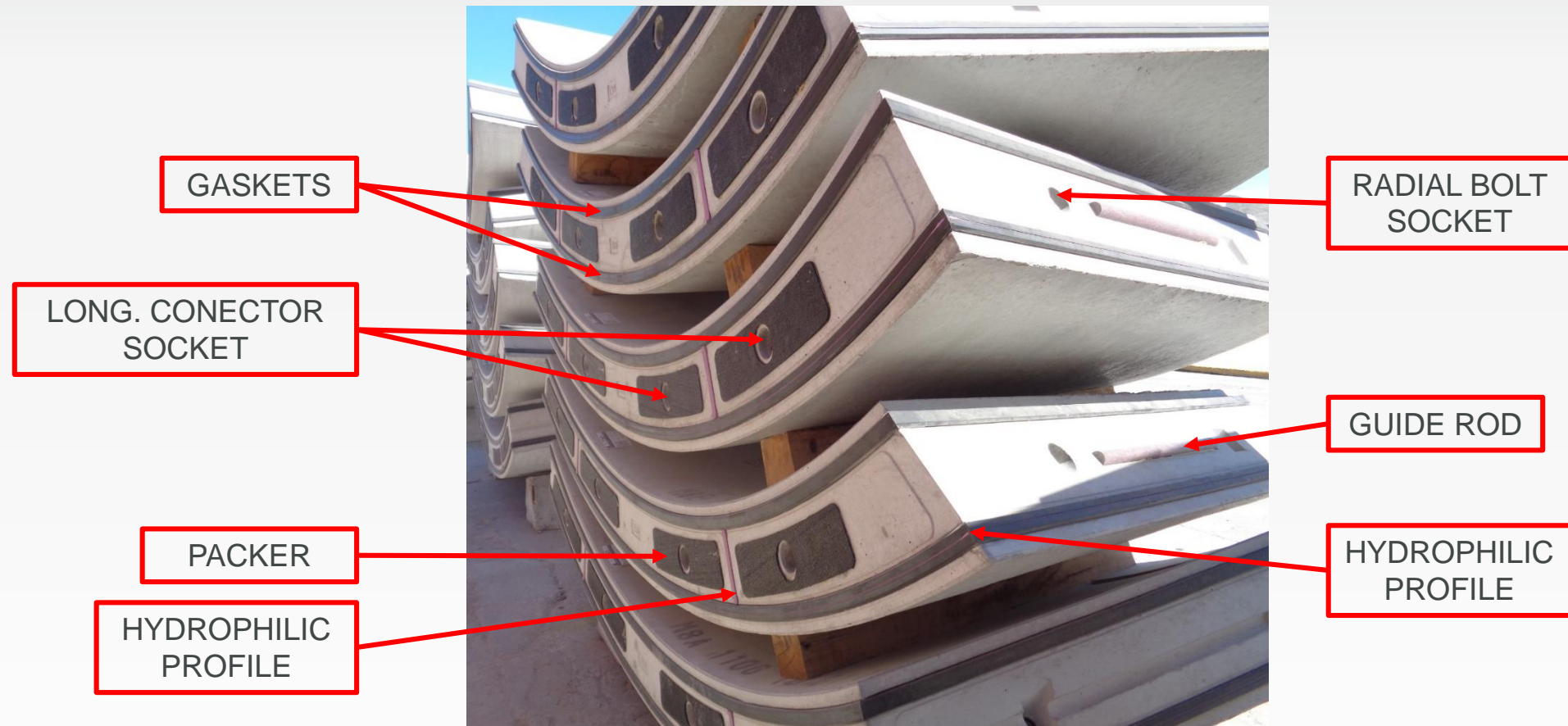


# OUTFALL TUNNEL – RING DESIGN

- Ring type:
  - Universal (5 segments)
  - 4900 mm / 4300 mm
  - 300 mm
  - 1400 mm
  - $\pm 7$  mm
  - 4 conectors
  - 2 SS bolts–A4-80L
  - Doble anchored gaskets
  - UG018A (Internal)
  - UG037A (External)  
+hydrophilic profile
  - H50
- OD / ID
- Thickness
- Length
- Taper
- Circunferencial joint
- Longitudinal joint
- Gaskets
- Concrete



# OUTFALL TUNNEL – RING DESIGN

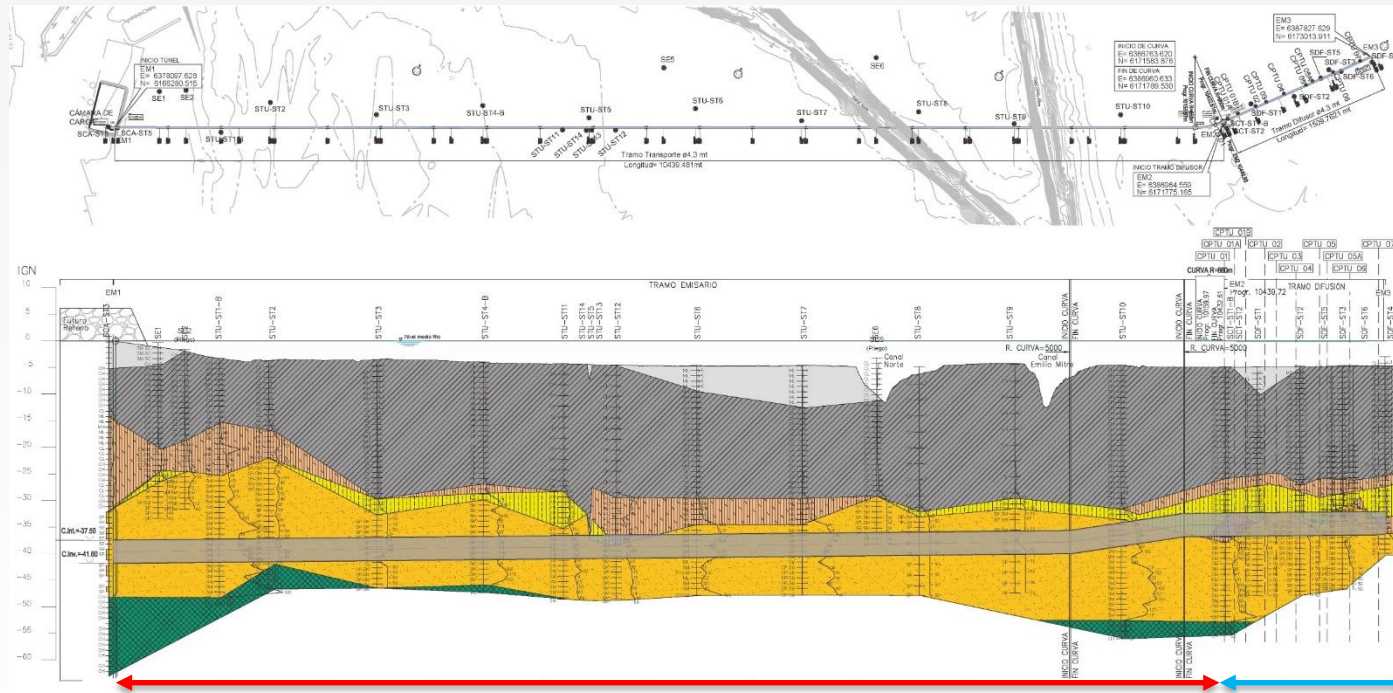


# OUTFALL TUNNEL – GEOLOGICAL PROFILE

- Tunnel length: 10439 m
- Diffusor section length: 1510 m
- Abandonment of TBM: 20 m
- Mining in sand (soft soil)



**TBM EPB ø4,30m  
Up To 6 bar**



10,5 km

1,5 km



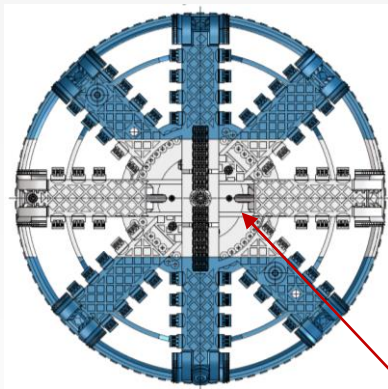
Lo bueno del agua llega.





# OUTFALL TUNNEL – TBM DESIGN

- TBM: EPB - HK
- Working pressure: 6 bar
- Excavation diameter: 5200mm
- TBM length: 220m

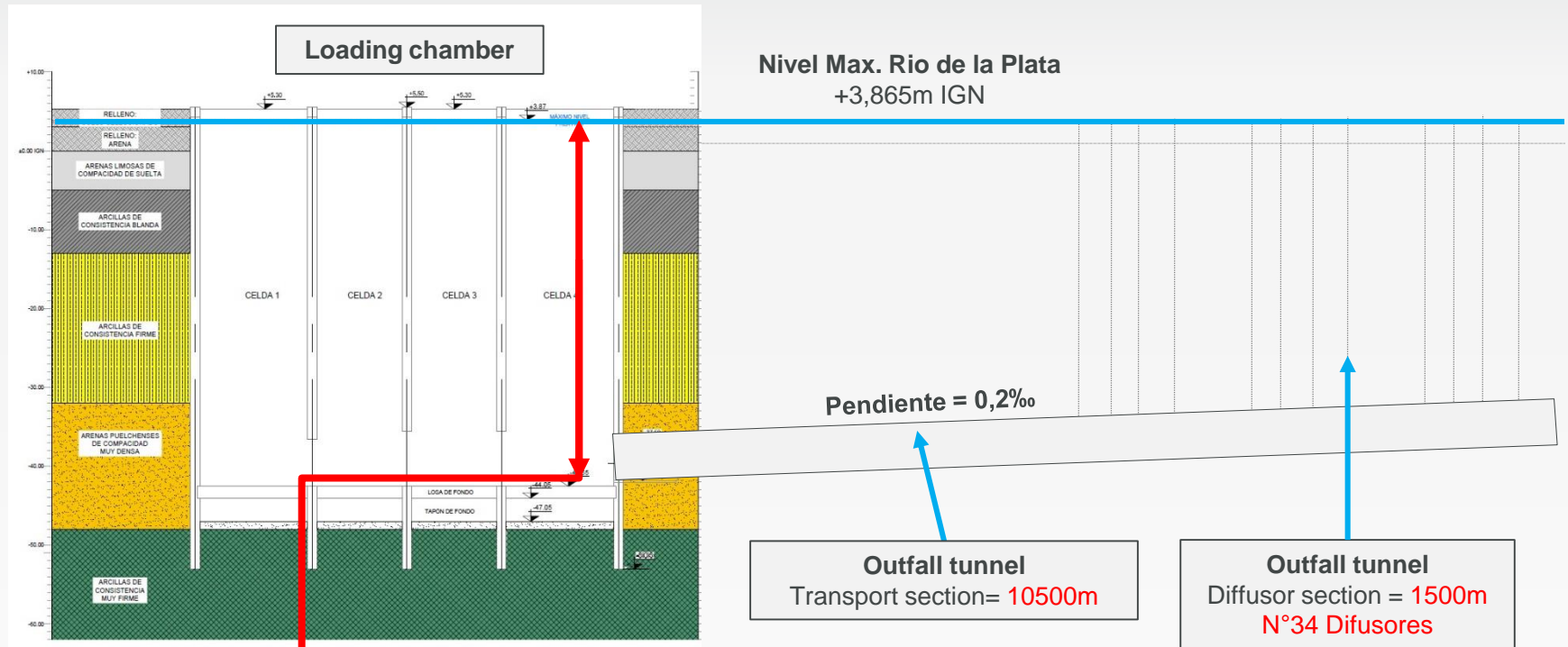


Cutterhead





# OUTFALL TUNNEL – TBM DESIGN



Max. Rio level = 3,865m IGN  
 Min. springline tunnel = -39,65m IGN  
**External pressure in the construction stage = 4,35 bar**

**Operational pressure of TBM above 3 bar for the entire length of the túnel**

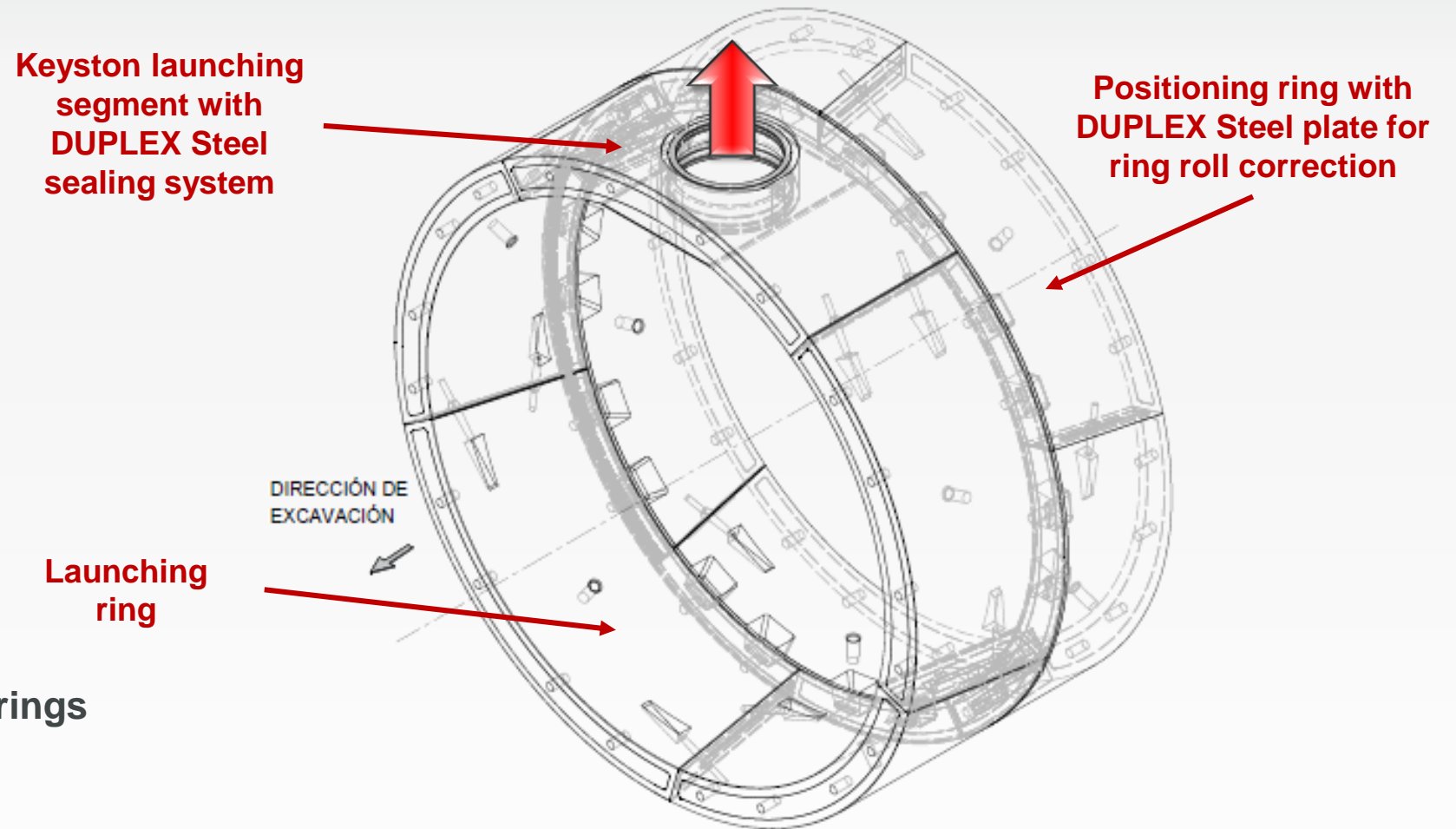
# OUTFALL TUNNEL







# OUTFALL TUNNEL – ESPECIAL RINGS DESIGN



- No. 34 couples of especial rings
- No.1 for each Riser

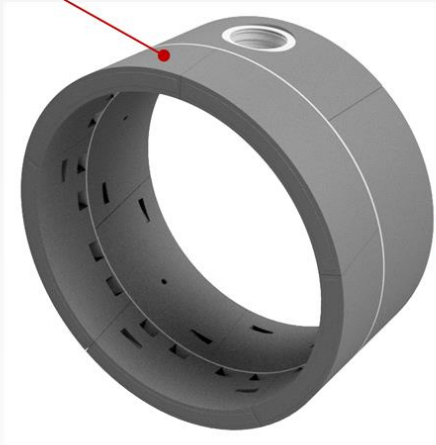


# OUTFALL TUNNEL – ESPECIAL RINGS

## Details of the Riser Concept – Positioning ring

- ✓ Positioning duplex steel plate

Positioning Ring



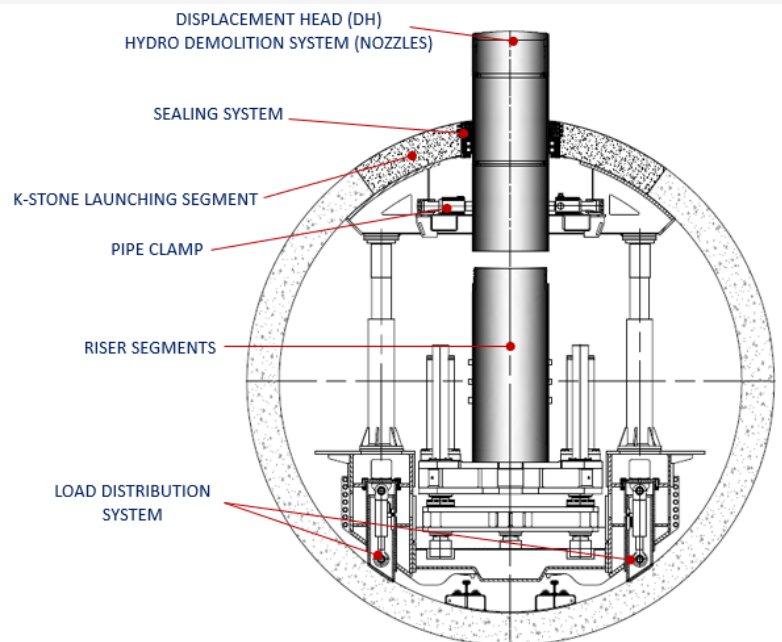
Launching Segment



# OUTFALL TUNNEL – ESPECIAL RINGS

## Details of the Riser Concept – Launching ring

- ✓ Keystone Launching Segment
- ✓ Duplex Sealing System
- ✓ Displacement Head





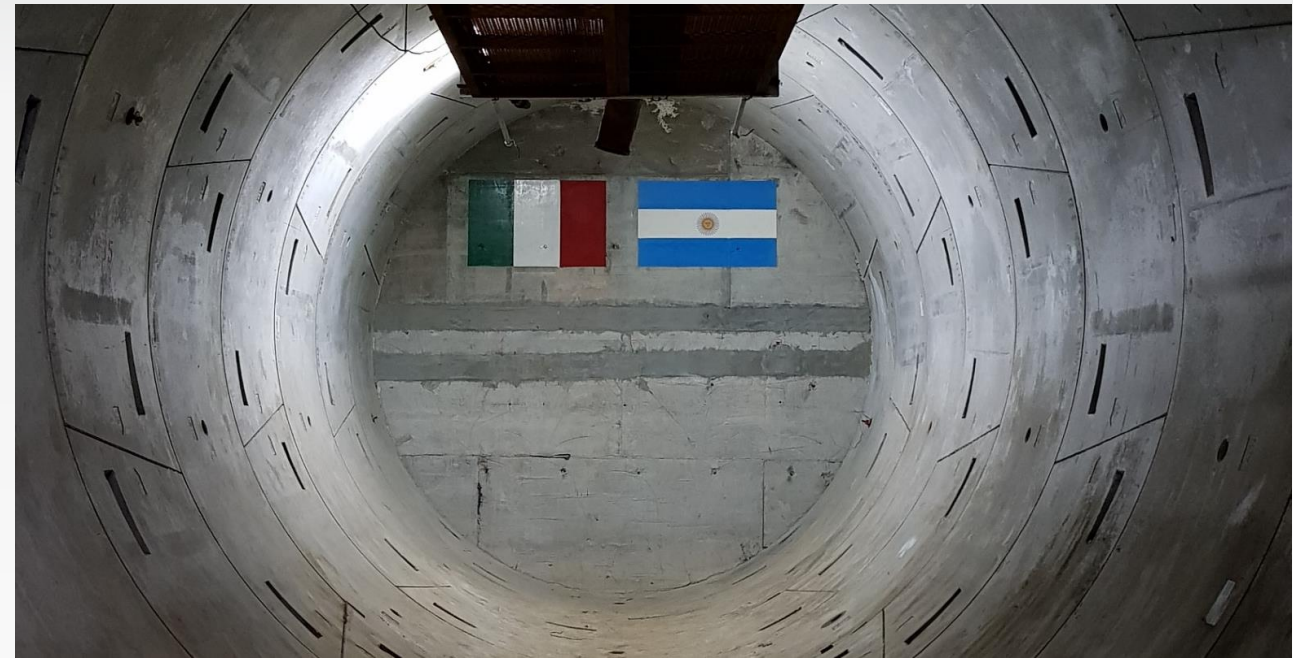
# OUTFALL TUNNEL – ESPECIAL RINGS



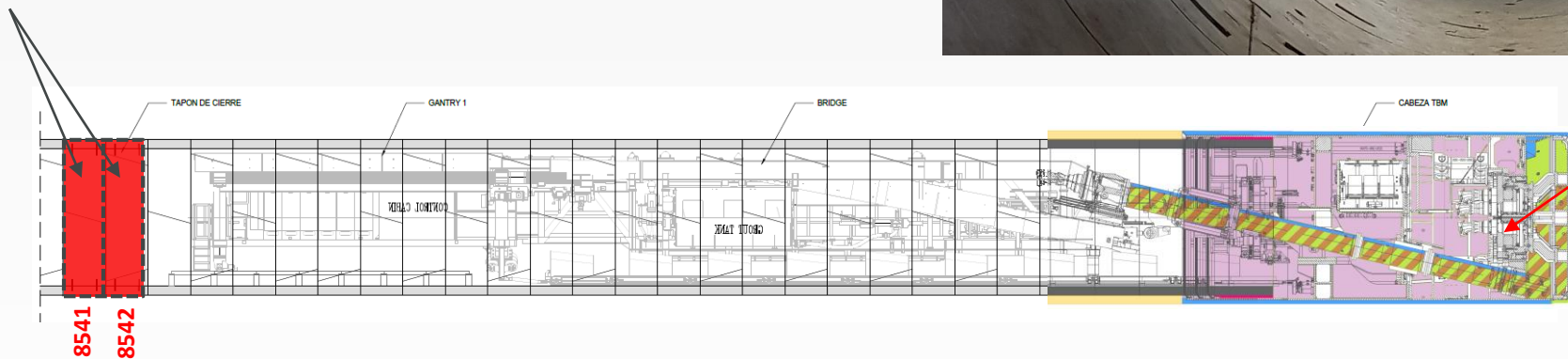
# OUTFALL TUNNEL – TBM ABANDONMENT

## TBM Abandonment and execution of final plug

- ✓ TBM encapsulation
- ✓ Filling of excavation chamber
- ✓ Pouring of front, middle and tail skin shields
- ✓ Execution of final plug



### TAPÓN DE CIERRE



ENCAPSULATION OF TBM AND FILLING OF CHAMBER AND SCREW CONVEYOR



# OUTFALL TUNNEL – HYDRAULIC CONCRETE FILL

- ✓ Hydraulic section reduction with concrete in order to guarantee self-cleaning velocity ( $>0,6$  m/s)
- ✓ Self-leveling concrete without reinforcement

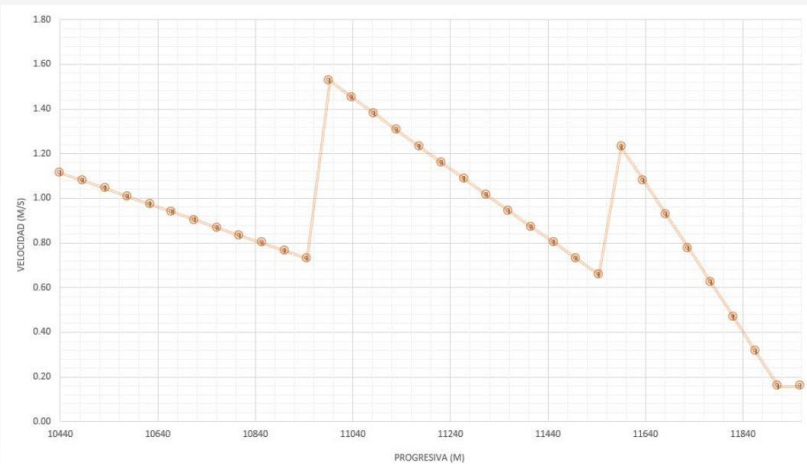
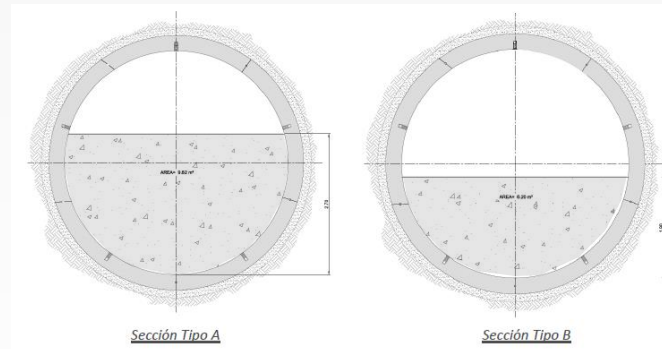
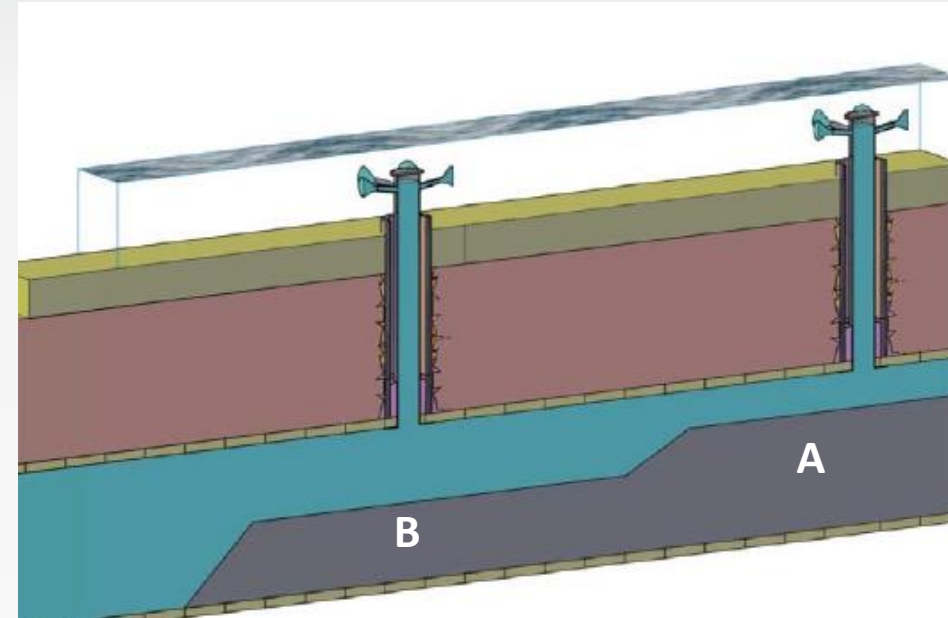
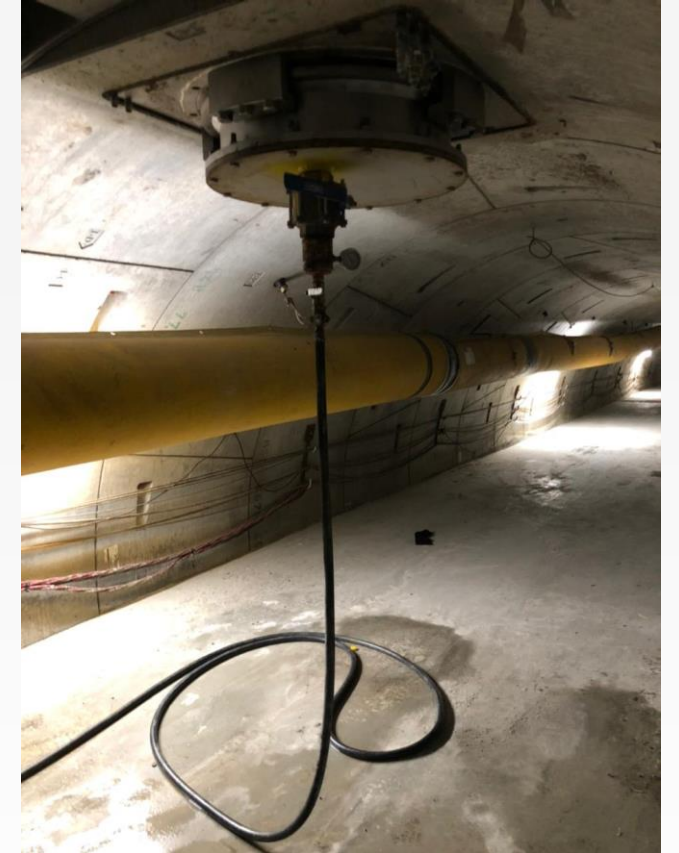


Figura 13: Perfil resultante de velocidades (DN variable - Q=16.20m³/s)



Sección	Largo	Volumen
Tipo A	363 m	3492 m3
Tipo B	600 m	3720 m3

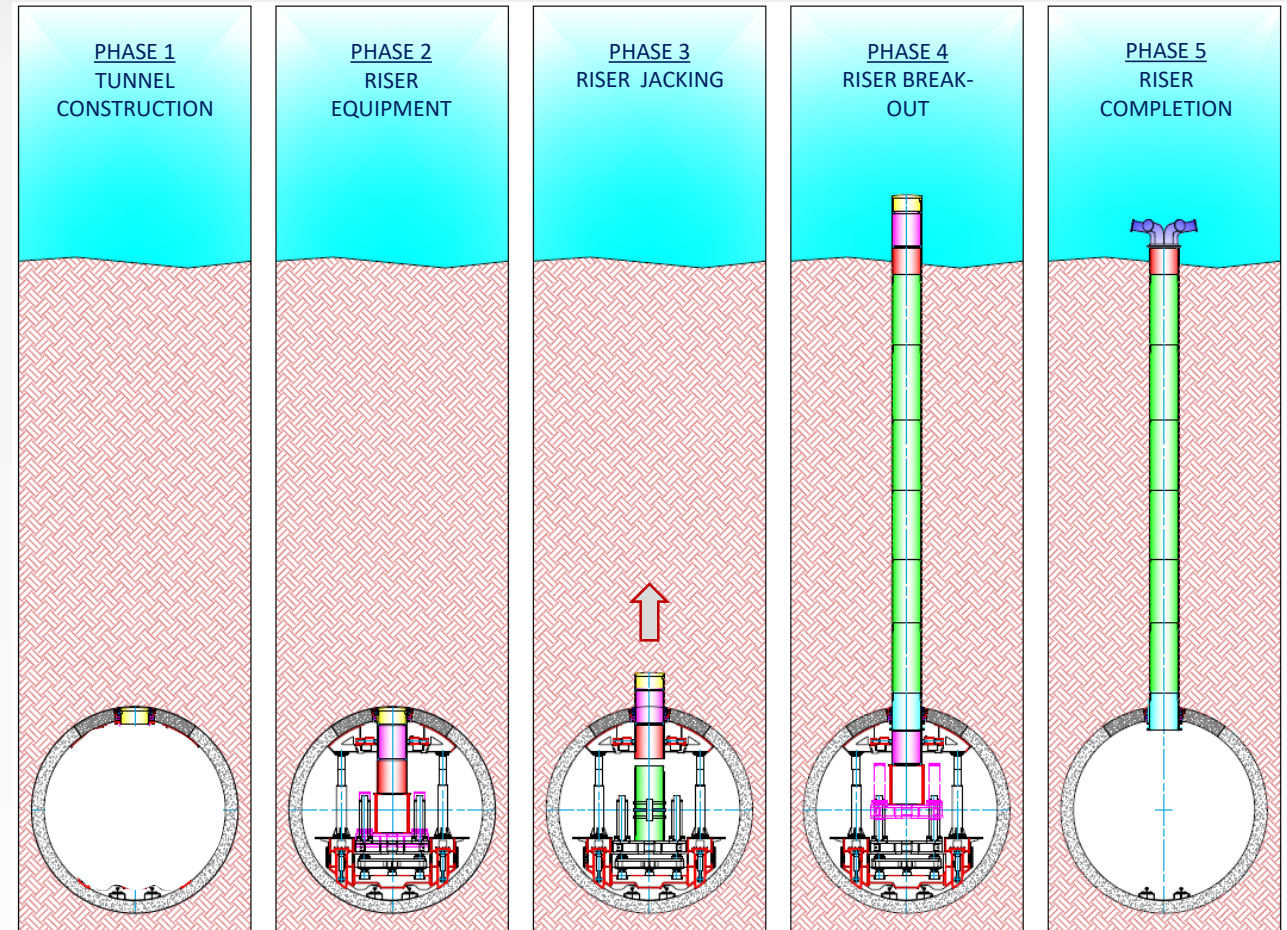
# OUTFALL TUNNEL – HYDRAULIC CONCRETE FILL





# RISER CONCEPT – INNOVATIVE CONSTRUCTION METHOD

- Bottom-up construction method
- Riser segments jacked upward from inside the tunnel
- Soil excavation by hydro-demolition
- Direct installation of riser's permanent lining
- Underwater break-through
- Fixed permanent Riser-Tunnel connection



# RISER CONCEPT – INNOVATIVE CONSTRUCTION METHOD

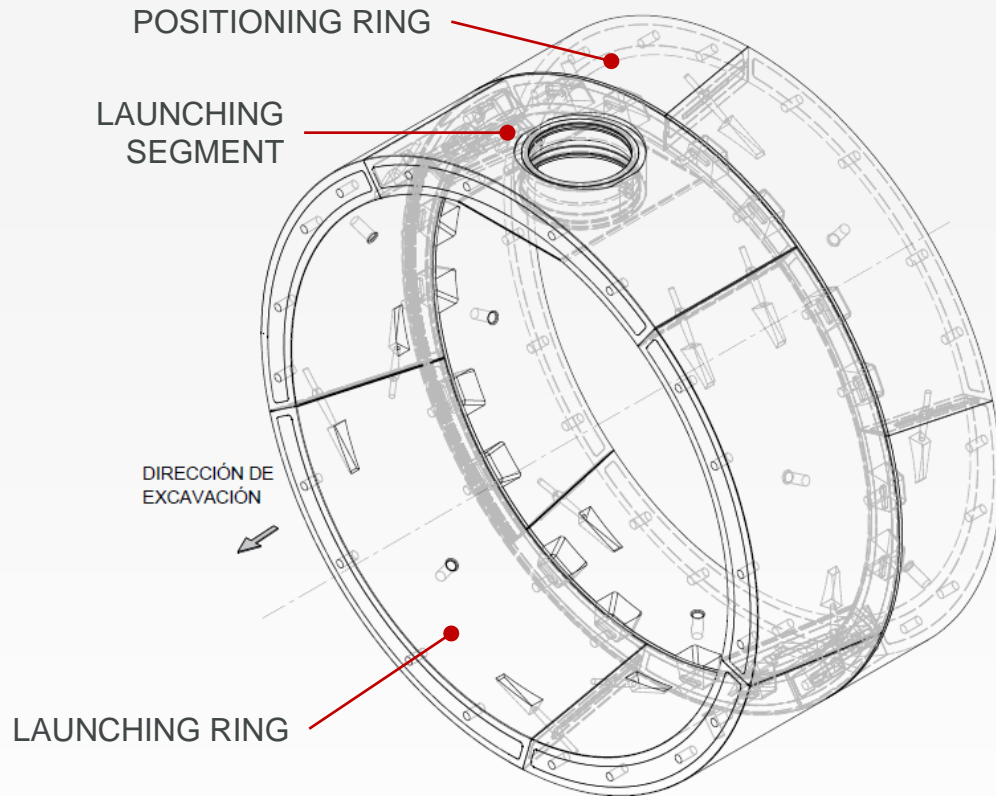
- Installation of Special Segmental rings by TBM
  - ✓ Positioning segmental ring
  - ✓ Launching segmental ring
- TBM disassembly & Riser Equipment assembly
- Jacking of riser segments & material excavation
- Completion of riser
- Removal of DH & installation of Diffuser Head



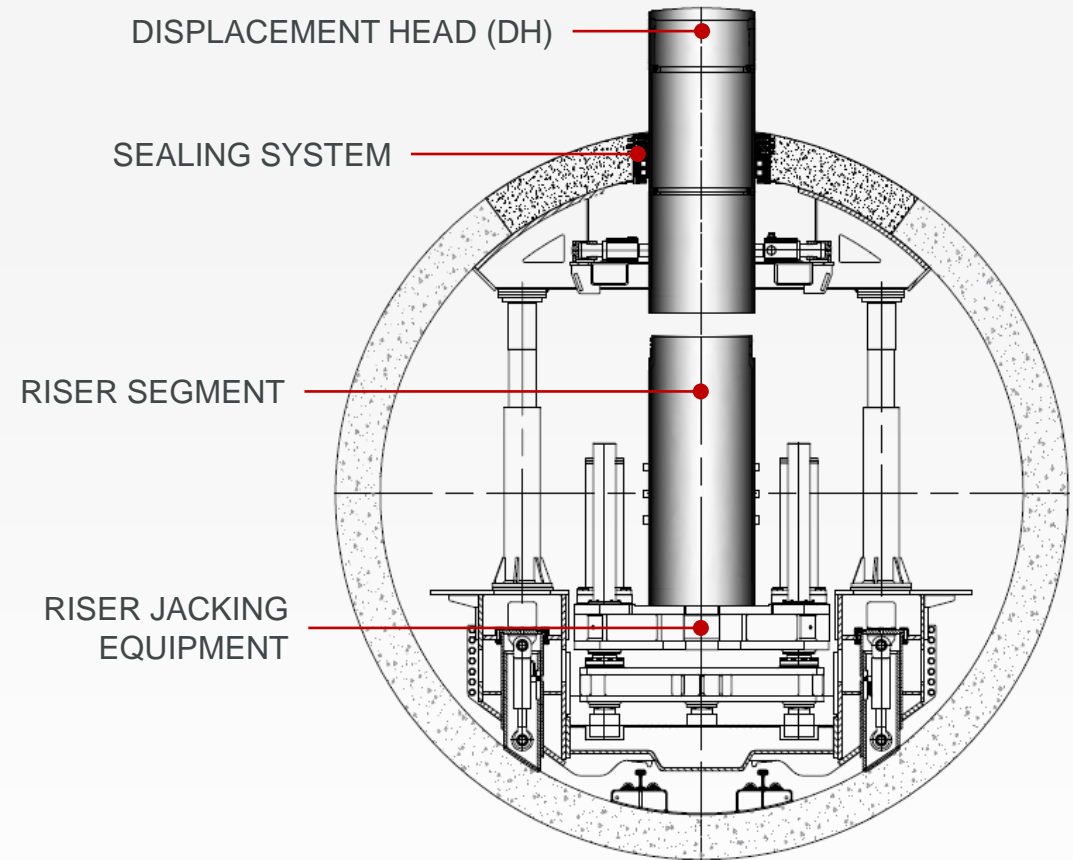


# RISER CONCEPT – MAIN COMPONENTS

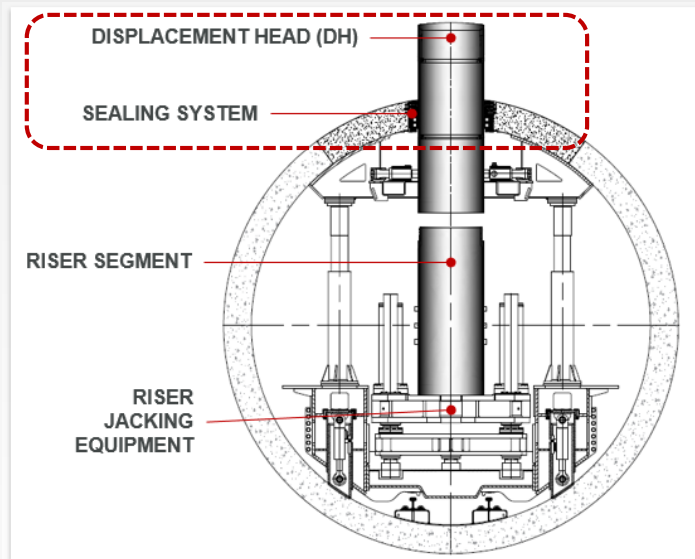
## TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION



## RISER JACKING

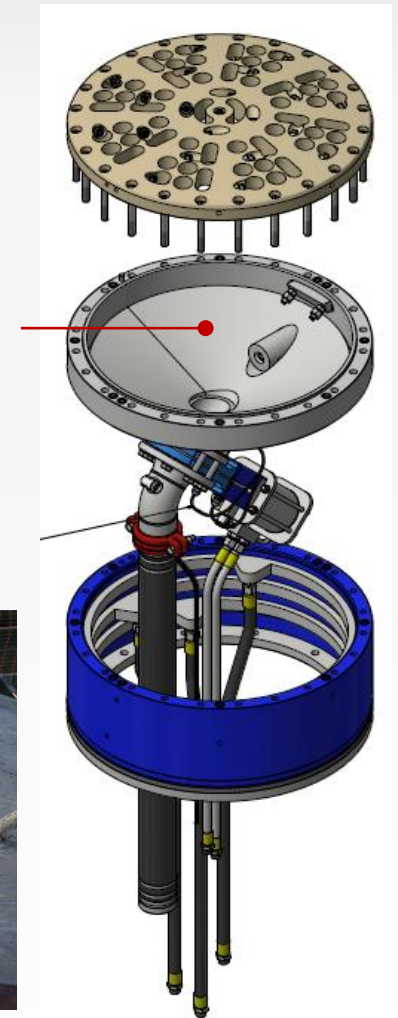


# MAIN COMPONENTS – LAUNCHING SEGMENT

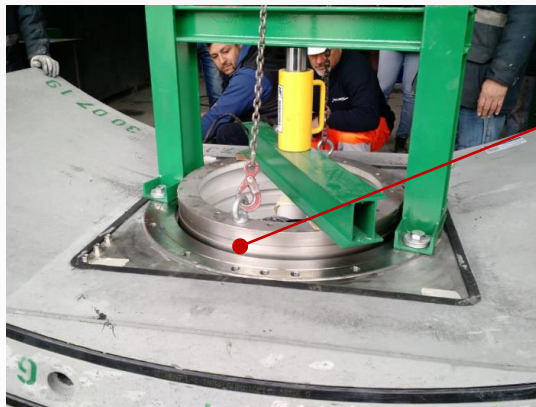


LAUNCHING SEGMENT

SEALING SYSTEM

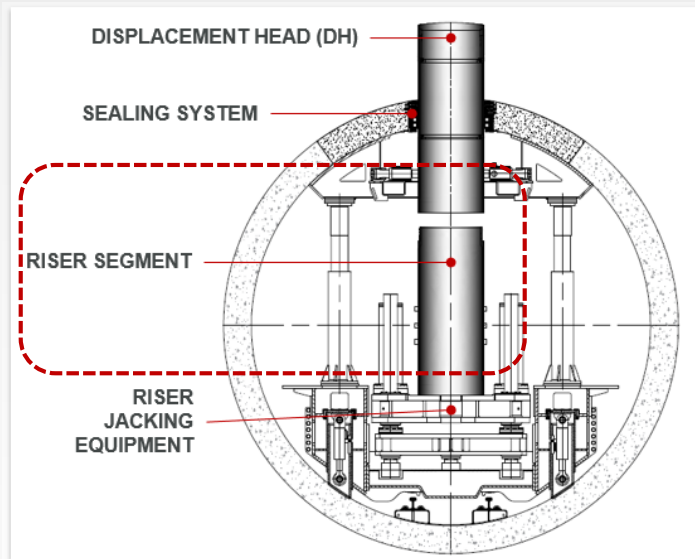


DISPLACEMENT HEAD (DH)

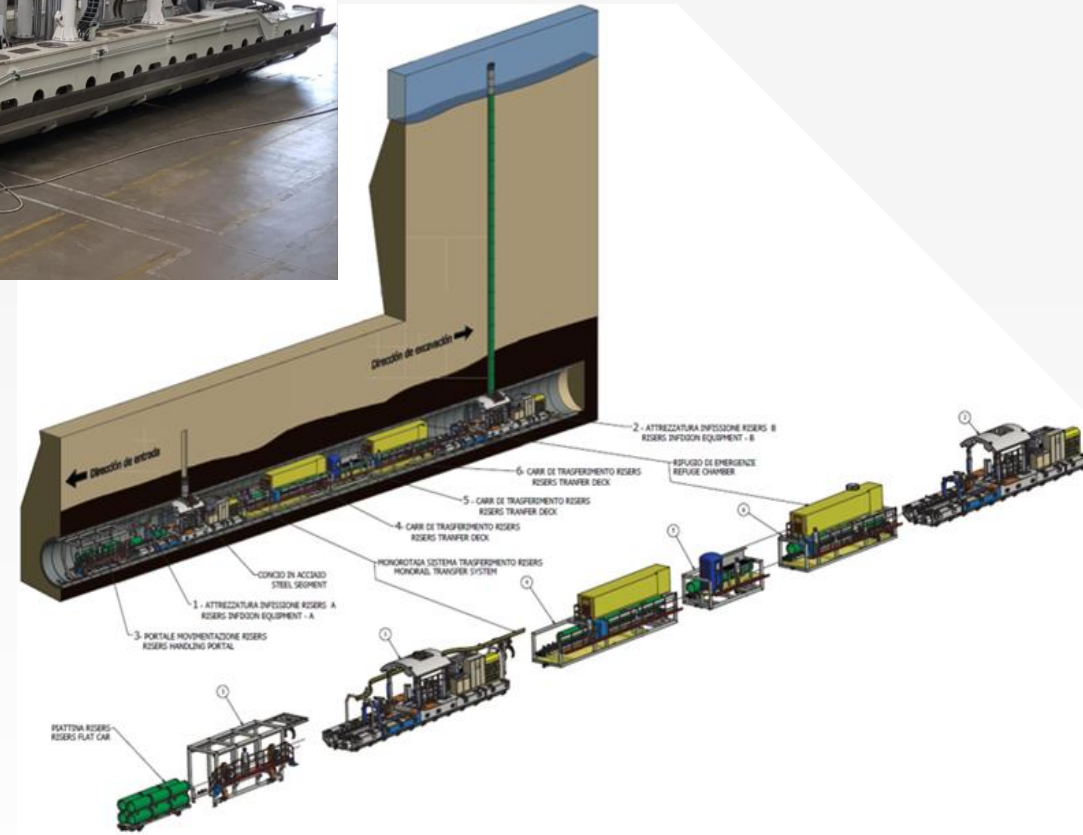
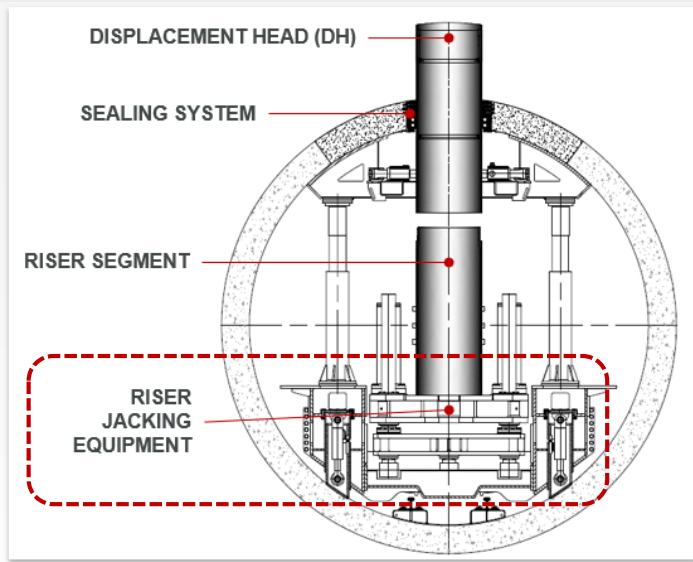




# MAIN COMPONENTS – RISER SEGMENTS



# MAIN COMPONENTS – RISER JACKING EQUIPMENT

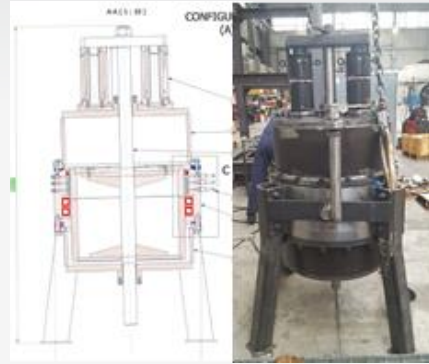




# MAIN COMPONENTS – RISER JACKING EQUIPMENT



# RISER CONCEPT – PROTOTYPING AND TESTING



**SEALING SYSTEM TEST**



**RISER SEGMENTS TEST**



**REAL SIZE TEST**

**MAY-SEP 2017**



**INITIAL DESIGN**

**DEC 2017**



**DISPLACEMENT HEAD TEST**

**APR 2018**



**EQUIPMENT TESTS**

**JUL 2018**

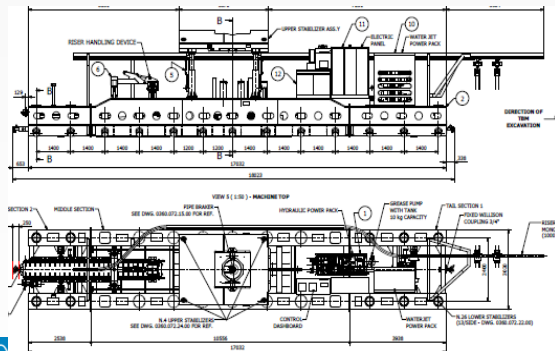


**NOV 2018**



**Q3 2020  
CONSTRUCTION  
ACTIVITIES**

**DEC 2018**





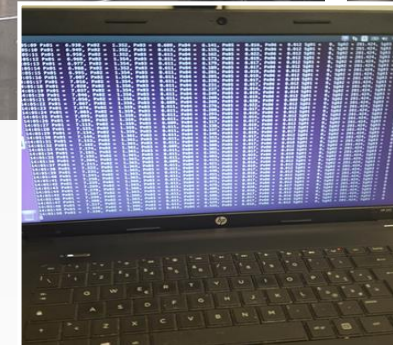
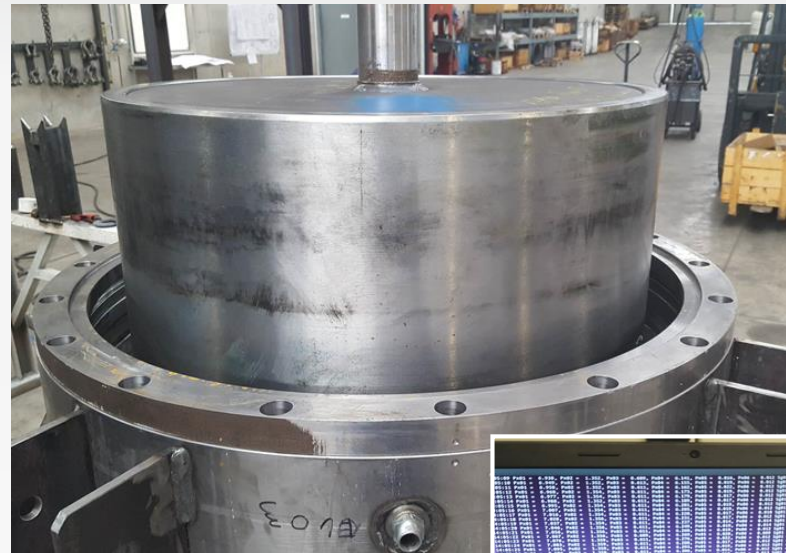
# PROTOTYPING AND TESTING – SEALING SYSTEM TESTS

## TEST OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Verify tolerances ( $D_{ext} \pm 0,5\text{mm}$ )
- ✓ Verify maximum inclination
- ✓ Verify joint geometry

## TEST CONFIGURATION

- ✓ Inclined riser ( $1^\circ$ )
- ✓ Eccentric riser (ecc. = 4mm)



## TEST PHASES

- ✓ Dimensional verification
- ✓ Static test on multi-lip gasket (6bar; 24hrs)
- ✓ Dynamic test on multi-lip gasket (6bar; 120 cycles)
- ✓ Static test on emergency inflatable gasket (6 bar; 12hrs)

# PROTOTYPING AND TESTING – DISPLACEMENT HEAD TESTS

## TEST OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Measure jacking force & validate estimation method
- ✓ Verify excavation method and soil removal
- ✓ Optimization of DH & hydro-demolition nozzles

## SIMULATED CONDITIONS

- ✓ Geotechnical conditions
  - Soil classification
  - Compaction
  - Saturation
- ✓ Loading conditions
  - Stress state
  - Hydraulic gradient
- ✓ Operational sequence
  - Open mode
  - Close mode

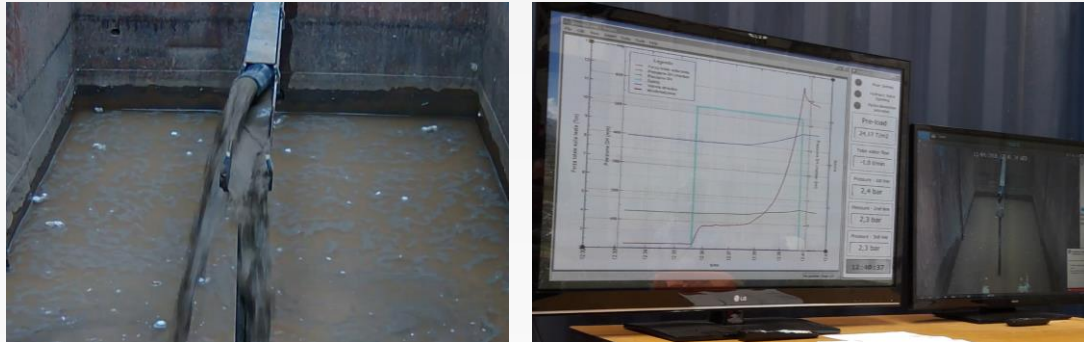




# PROTOTYPING AND TESTING – DISPLACEMENT HEAD TESTS

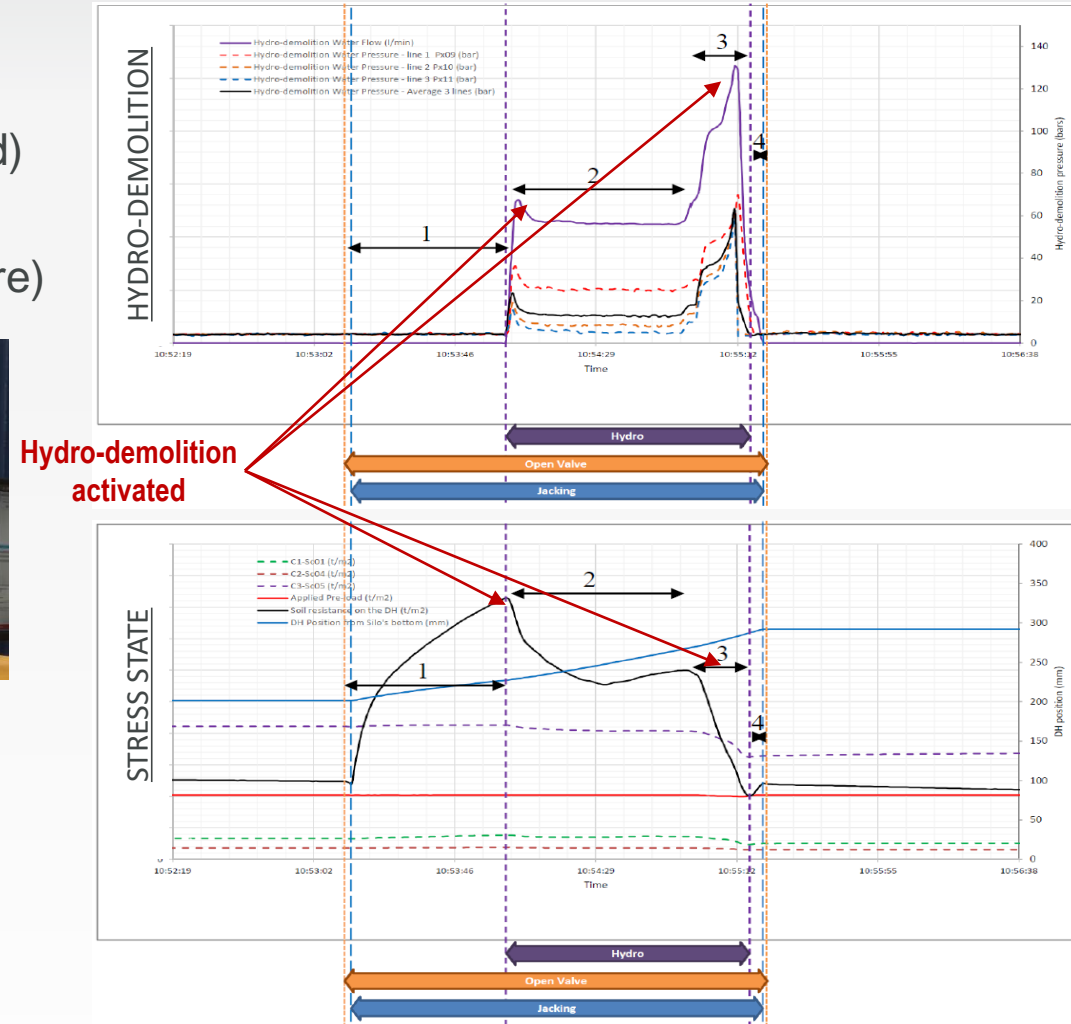
## REAL TIME VISUALIZATION OF TEST DATA

- ✓ Forces (jacking force, DH tip resistance, applied load)
- ✓ Hydro-demolition parameters (flow and pressure)
- ✓ Geotechnical parameters (stresses and pore pressure)



## TEST OUTCOMES

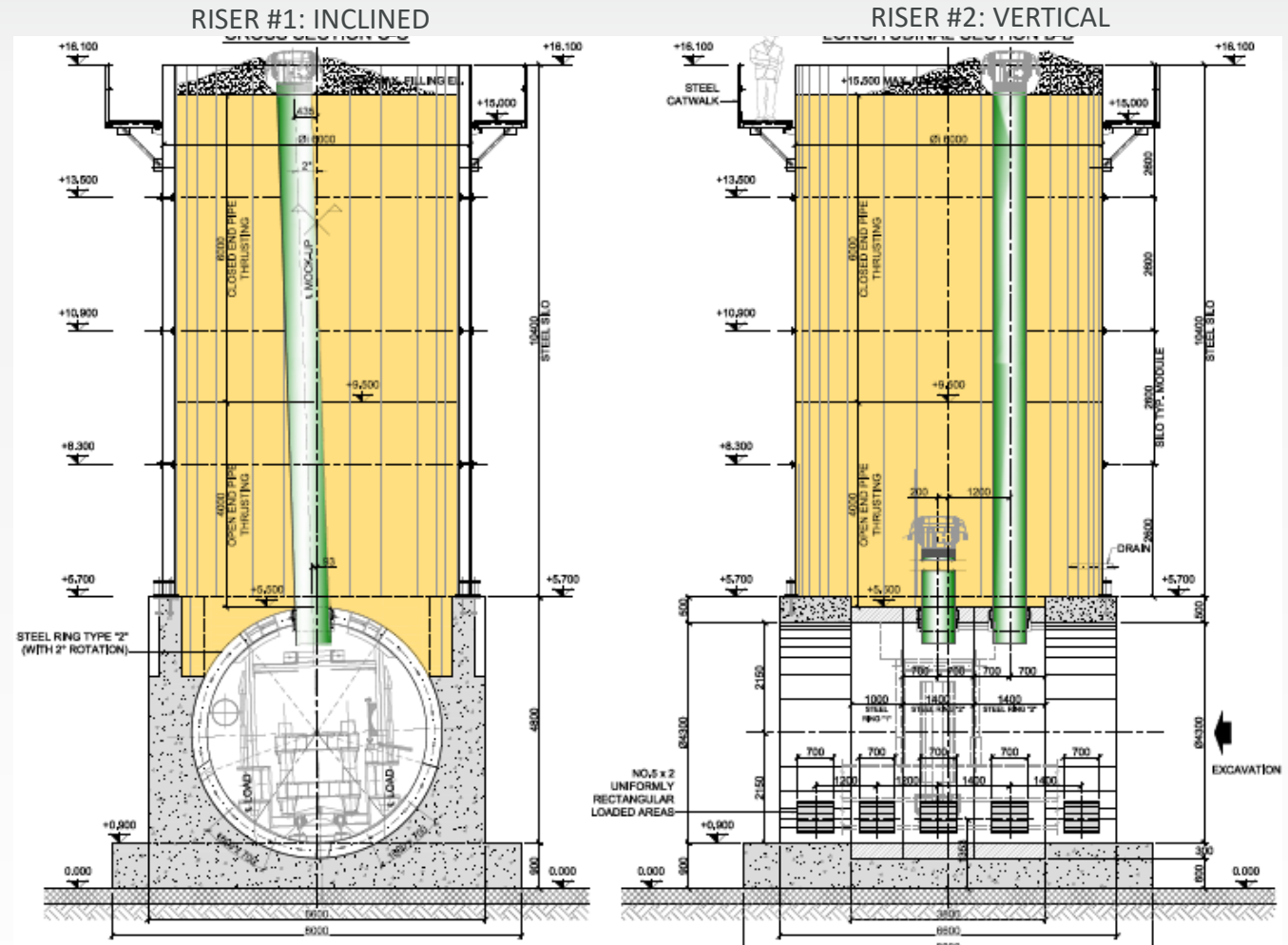
- ✓ Representative test conditions were confirmed
- ✓ Hydro-demolition efficiency higher than targeted
- ✓ Verified soil excavation and evacuation from DH
- ✓ Validation of jacking force estimation method



# PROTOTYPING AND TESTING – REAL SIZE TESTS

## TESTED COMPONENTS

- ✓ Riser Segments
  - Segment assembly
  - Riser verticality
  - Joint capacity and functionality
- ✓ Displacement Head
  - Stress state
  - Efficiency of hydro-demolition
  - Soil discharge valve
- ✓ Jacking Equipment
  - Sufficient jacking force
  - Load distribution system
  - Operation sequences

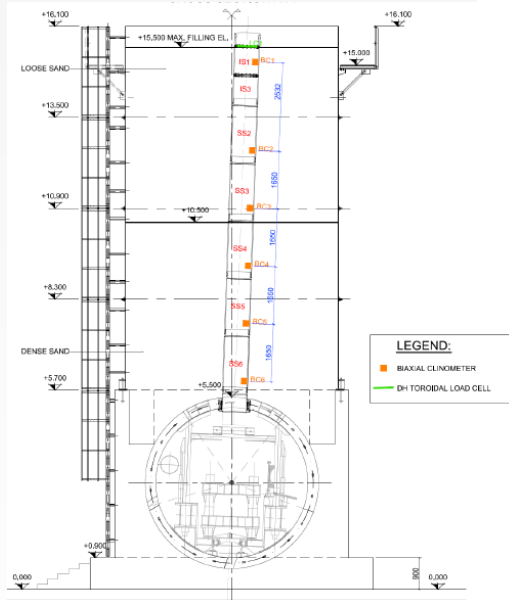




# PROTOTYPING AND TESTING – REAL SIZE TESTS

## MONITORING SYSTEMS

- ✓ Forces (jacking force and DH tip resistance)
- ✓ Hydro-demolition (pressure and flow)
- ✓ Forces transferred to tunnel (load distribution)
- ✓ Riser inclination
- ✓ Stress state in soil



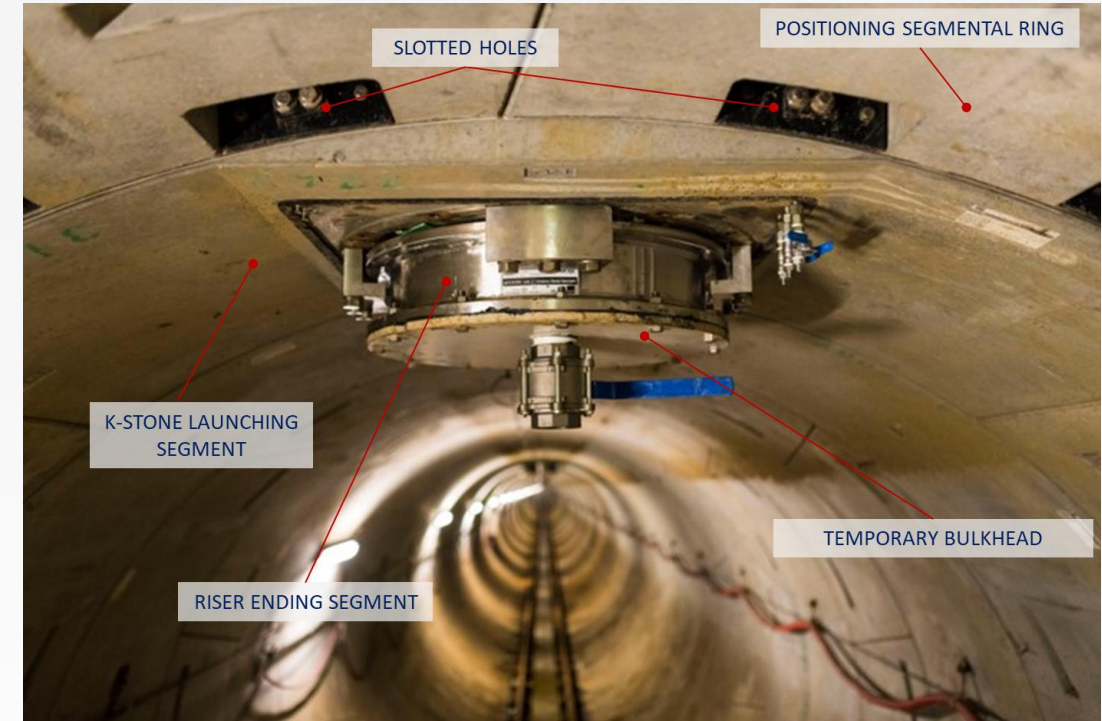
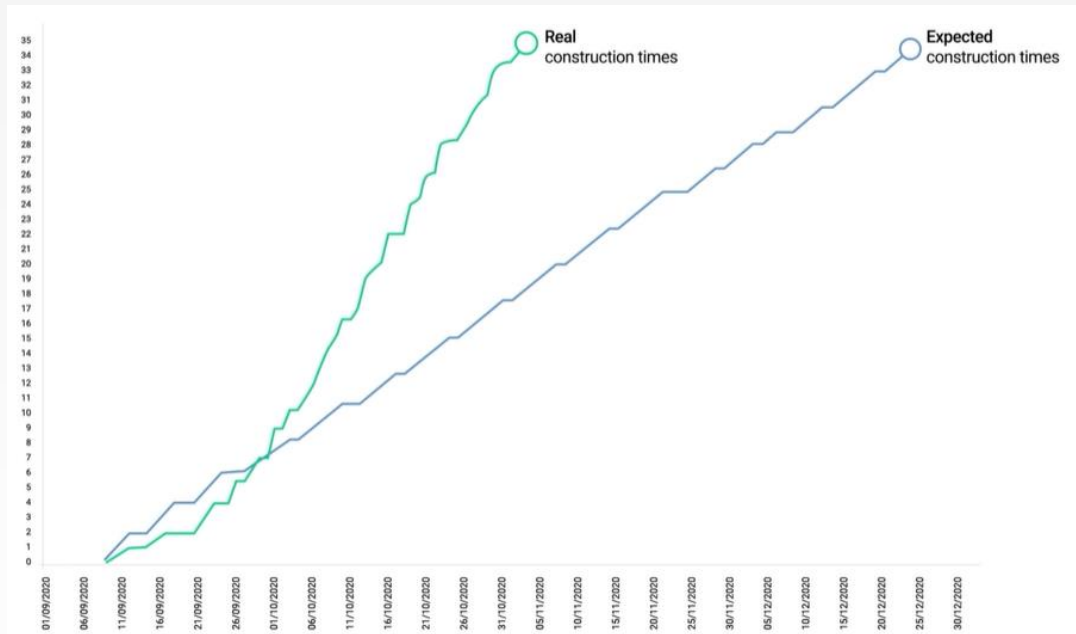
Lo bueno del agua llega.



# RISER CONCEPT – EXECUTION OF RISERS (RIACHUELO LOT3)

## CONSTRUCTION PHASE

- ✓ N.34 risers = **1km of pipes** installed in **50 days**
- ✓ Less than **50% of duration** initially foreseen
- ✓ Highest production rate **6 risers in 1 week**
- ✓ Excellent outcomes in terms of **safety** and **quality**





# CONVENTIONAL METHODS – ASHBRIDGES OUTFALL (CANADA)

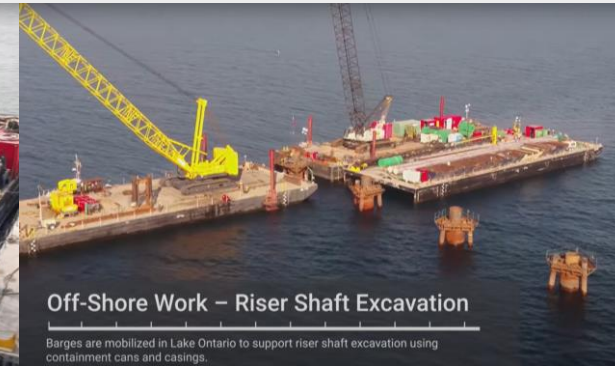
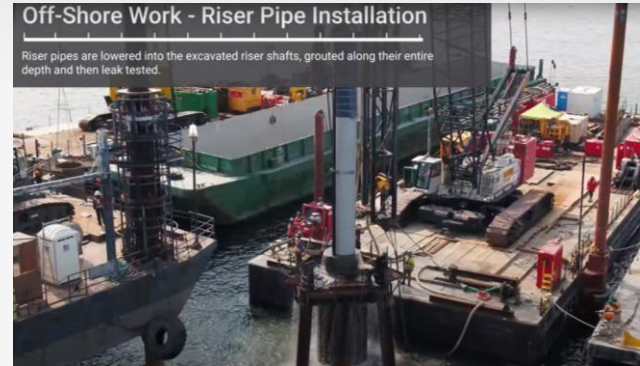
## OFFSHORE WORKS

- ✓ Drilling and pipe Jacking installation
- ✓ Annular grout around the pipe

Works restricted during winter season (Nov-Apr) due to weather conditions in the lake

Off-Shore Work - Riser Pipe Installation

Riser pipes are lowered into the excavated riser shafts, grouted along their entire depth and then leak tested.



Off-Shore Work – Riser Shaft Excavation

Barges are mobilized in Lake Ontario to support riser shaft excavation using containment cans and casings.

## UNDERGROUND WORKS

- ✓ Probe holes drilled from the tunnel
- ✓ Tunnel segment removal/demolition
- ✓ Excavation of riser connection and installation of rock supports
- ✓ Riser connection concreting and repair works

Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Outfall Project Overview & Tunnel Boring Machine Assembly

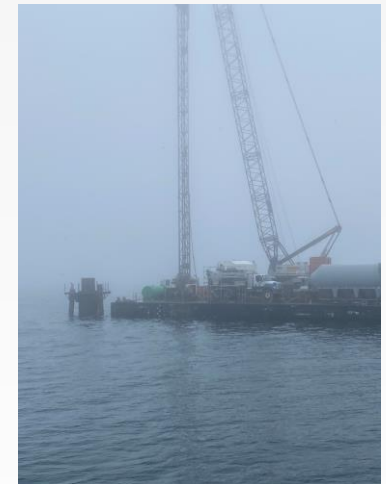
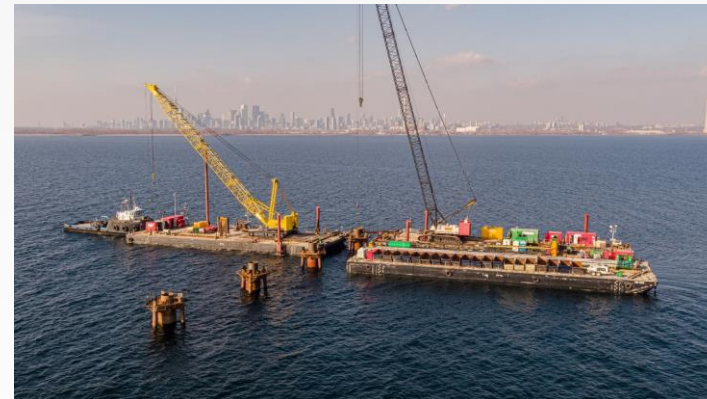
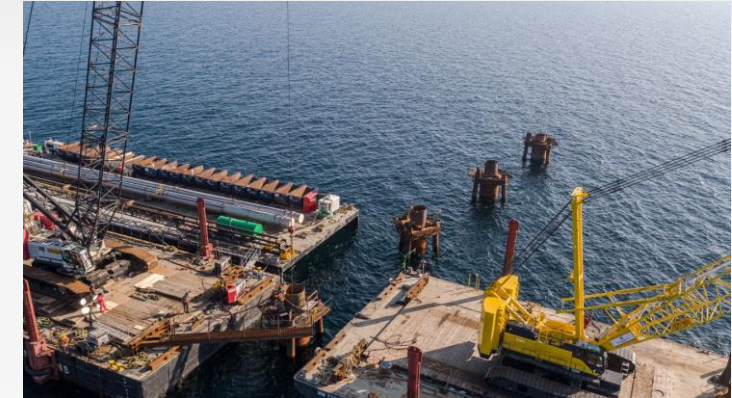


Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxanqilwMPO>

# CONVENTIONAL METHODS – ASHBRIDGES OUTFALL (CANADA)

## MAIN CHALLENGES

- ✓ Off-Shore Work cannot be performed during winter season (November to April) due to weather conditions in the lake.
- ✓ Contractor experienced downtime due to abnormal weather/marine conditions (wave height, wind speeds, etc). Mitigation measures had to be implemented (i.e. additional shifts, re-sequencing of activities).
- ✓ Major constraint: TBM Mining shall not proceed to within 100m of any riser until the riser has been installed, grouted and tested.
  - Risk of potentially having to halt TBM operations if risers not complete.
  - Contingency plan had to be developed







# RISER CONCEPT - COMPARISON WITH CONVENTIONAL METHODS

RISER CONCEPT AS ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL METHODS IN ASHBRIDGES OUTFALL

RISER CONNECTION - CONVENTIONAL METHOD



Step 2-3-4: Install rock bolts and wire mesh on rock. Install shotcrete. Drain and remove riser bulkead. Place additional rebar.

RISER CONNECTION - RISER CONCEPT



Step 2: Mechanized Riser Installation by jacking upward riser segments.



# RISER CONCEPT - COMPARISON WITH CONVENTIONAL METHODS

RISER CONCEPT AS ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL METHODS IN ASHBRIDGES OUTFALL

RISER CONNECTION - CONVENTIONAL METHOD



Step 5-6-7: Place three layers of shotcrete on stay-in-place forms. Concrete injection and cut FRP pipe flush to surface of tunnel.

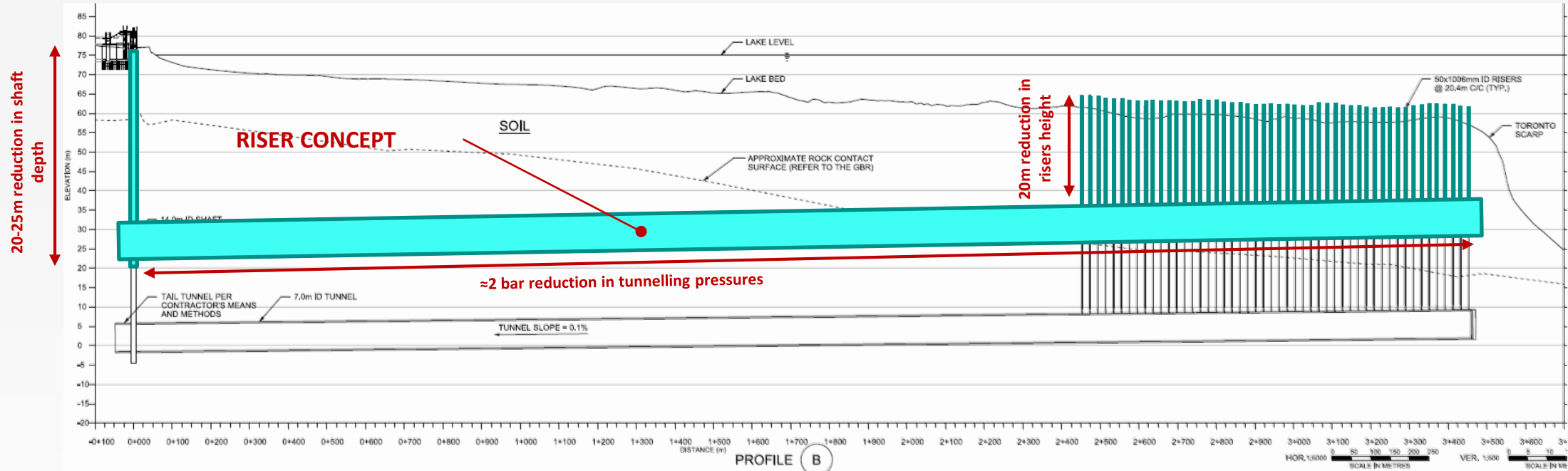
RISER CONNECTION - RISER CONCEPT



Step 3: Riser completion including temporary bulkheads, removed prior outfall tunnel flooding

# RISER CONCEPT - COMPARISON WITH CONVENTIONAL METHODS

## RISER CONCEPT AS ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL METHODS IN ASHBRIDGES OUTFALL



### ADVANTAGES RISER CONCEPT

- ✓ Enhanced Safety during construction (mechanized solution)
- ✓ Higher quality control and not needs of repair activities
- ✓ Limited environmental impact (maritime works)

### ADVANTAGES RISER CONCEPT

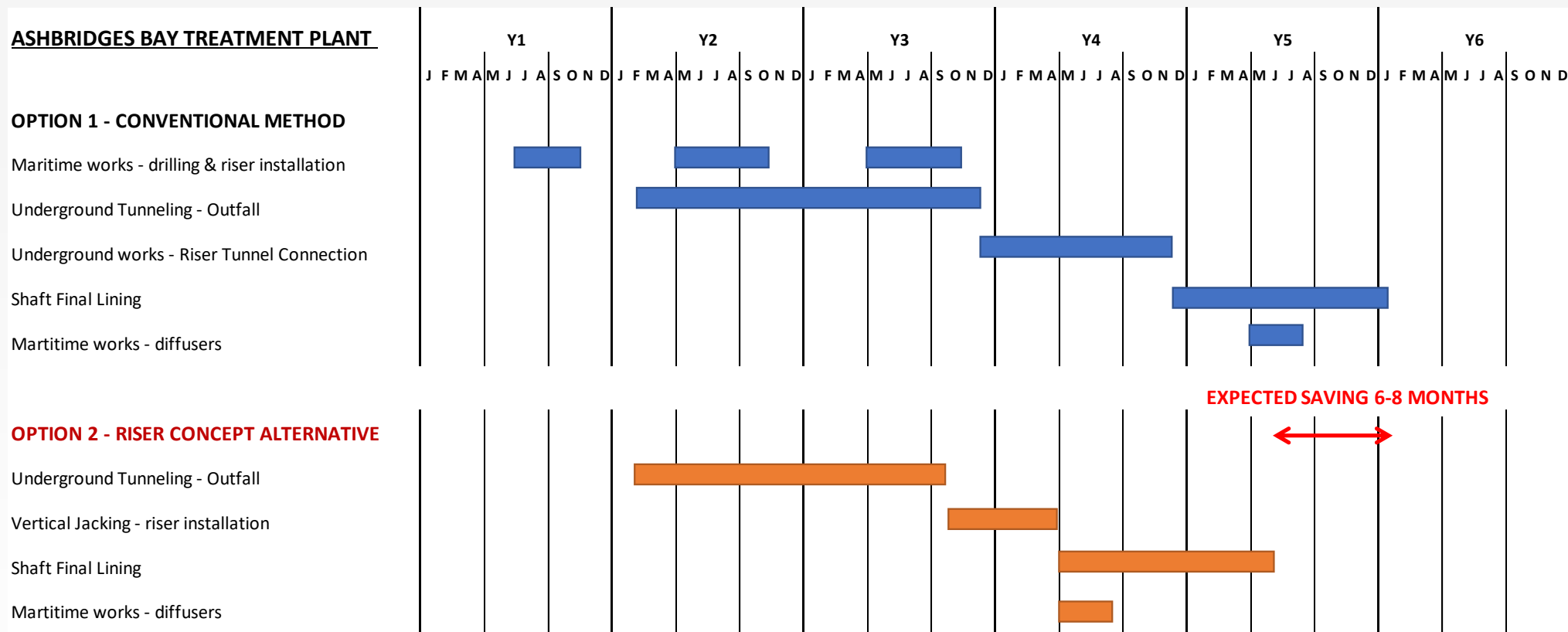
- ✓ Construction time reduced and increased schedule reliability
- ✓ Competitive costs and risks mitigation solution
- ✓ Reduced impact with navigation and vessels



# RISER CONCEPT - COMPARISON WITH CONVENTIONAL METHODS

RISER CONCEPT AS ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL METHODS IN ASHBRIDGES OUTFALL

*TIME SCHEDULE SAVING AND PROGRAM RELIABILITY (Simulation based on estimated production rates)*



# CONVENTIONAL METHODS – ASHBRIDGES OUTFALL (CANADA)

## RISER CONCEPT AS ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL METHODS

- ✓ The Riser Concept in Riachuelo Project is **practical** and **advantageous**.
- ✓ It is a **sustainable** construction technique, with an improved worker **safety** and a **reduced** environmental impact.
- ✓ The mechanized method provides **advantages** in terms of safety, quality, time risks mitigation and costs.
- ✓ **Engineering innovation** that changes the way to **construct** risers and represents a **step forward** in the **future of outfall projects**
- ✓ Valuable and proved **alternative** to **conventional construction methods**
- ✓ Technical Innovation of the Year at **ITA Tunnelling Awards 2021**









ISOS|2023

# Simposio Internacional sobre Sistemas de Emisarios 2023

International Symposium on Outfall Systems 2023

